SANDWELL
CHRONICLE

Thursday, January 8, 2015 | Read by more than 68,000 people | Price when sold 50p

STEPPING UP

Leukaemia cause boosted by dancers

PAGE 4

SAIDO SHOW

Youngster may hold the key for Pulis

PAGE 44

BUILDER DEATH PROBE REOPENS

THE inquest on a builder shot in America, after he stabbed a policeman in the face, has been reopened by the Black Country's senior coroner at the request of his family.

Report by Rob Cox

Sharrinder Singh Garcha, aged 20, died in the Wisconsin shooting on November 14 after turning on a deputy searching for a girl he had runaway with.

An inquest into the former Wednesbury pupil held in December concluded the cause of death was lawful killing in what appeared to be self-defence. But Garcha's family, from Darlaston, have asked the coroner to look again at the case and for more information to be gathered in the US.

This was approved by coroner Zafar Siddique at a hearing in Smethwick on Tuesday. Proceedings will be resumed on March 23 when Mr Siddique will provide an update on the investigation. He said: "I will now suspend proceedings to give the opportunity for further reports and investigation to take place in the United States. I will then make a decision to resume if there is sufficient reason to do so."

In addition to asking the coroner to look again at the case, the family requested a post-mortem be carried out.

This was authorised and indicated Garcha died of a gunshot wound to the head.

In yesterday's hearing Mr Siddique also said there was information to suggest the girl Garcha went to meet had not been there.

The inquest in December heard how Garcha – a former pupil at Wood Green School in Wednesbury – had tried to cut the throat of a deputy sheriff with a knife.

He had travelled to America in October having previously lived with his parents.

Garcha flew into Tampa International Airport in Florida but was immediately refused entry because police believed he was there to meet a young girl under the age of 18.

His passport was confiscated and he was told he would be deported the next day. Garcha, however, failed to collect the passport and it is believed he met up with the 17-year-old girl.

They then left Florida and ran away to Wisconsin. Once there, Garcha came into contact with the police again and said he had information about the runaway girl. During an interview Garcha told sheriff's investigator William Gray that he knew where she was.

Gray then drove Garcha to several locations, including a car park where Gray waited for assistance before checking a residence. As the two waited in Gray's unmarked squad car, Garcha attacked Gray with a knife, stabbing him several times in the face and neck before being shot in the head by the deputy, killing him.

Deputy Sheriff Gray was taken to hospital, suffering severe cuts to his face, neck and hands but has since recovered.

Borough residents face rent increases

COUNCIL tenants in Sandwell face rent rises under proposals by councillors as they look at continued investment plans for homes.

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said it was an option being considered with a decision to be taken shortly.

Councillor Cooper said the authority was mindful of hitting cash-strapped families with rent rises of around one to two per cent.

But he said the council may have no option but to bring in a rise for next financial year to enable improvement plans for homes to continue.

Around £50 million is being spent by Sandwell Council to revamp 6,000 homes. Work has already been carried out on estates in Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Tipton and West Bromwich. Homes are being fitted with new kitchens and bathrooms, electrical rewiring and heating systems, new roofing and windows.

Contractors are now looking at renovating properties on estates around Smethwick and Wednesbury.

Councillor Cooper said: "We are still analysing all the figures, but if we do have to have any increases then they would be no higher than inflation so around one or two per cent."

Dog fouling fine is issued

A DOG walker was fined after being caught failing to clean up after their dog.

Sandwell Council wardens spotted the owner in Richard Road, Tipton, on Tuesday morning.

The authority has punished dozens of owners who have not cleaned up after their pets by issuing fines of up to £75 and encourages responsible walkers to report incidents of dog fouling on its websiteA total of 75 people were fined last year in Sandwell after the launch of its clean-up campaign.

Future's clear for memorial window

Dr Terry Daniels of West Park Road, Smethwick and Lynn Paynter, both from Langley History Society with the window

A FIRST World War memorial which has spent nearly a decade in the wilderness will again become a focal point at Langley after campaigners secured thousands of pounds in funding.

The stained glass window is the only memorial listing the names of the 64 men from the Langley area of Sandwell who lost their lives during the Great War.

It was installed in St Michael and All Angels Church, in Causeway Green Road, Langley Green, for decades but had to be removed when the church, which had been closed since 2006, was sold and redeveloped.

The memorial was removed and stored in a garage in Smethwick, leading to uncertainty over its future while a new home was sought.

But after the Zion United Reformed Church, which is only around 100 yards away from the church in which it stood for so long, said it would be happy to take the memorial, a campaign was launched to raise enough money so it could be restored and safely displayed in its new home.

The Langley Local History Society has now been told a bid for Lottery Heritage Funding has been successful and is to receive £9,300.

The group's chairman Dr Terry Daniels said: "We are delighted to have been awarded this grant which secures the future of the window.

"It was originally bought through a public appeal and therefore belongs to the people of Langley, so it is important it remains here." The window is currently being restored and it is hoped it will be in place by April.

The three panels of the window will be separately mounted in metal frames with integral LED back-lighting, which is a professional system used by the Victoria and Albert Museum and others.

Deadline nears for views on junction

PEOPLE are being asked to give their views on latest plans to improve Birchley Island in Oldbury for all road users, with the closing date for consultation being January 16.

Sandwell Council is developing a scheme for Birchley Island, the junction of the A4123 and A4034, which also has a short link road to M5 Junction 2.

A consultation exercise on four options was carried out during April 2014 to find out how people and organisations that use the junction could be affected. Two of these were rejected.

The remaining options were for a hamburger island, with traffic passing through the junction in both directions next to the electricity primary sub-station.

The previous consultation revealed that around 55 per cent of survey respondents were satisfied with this arrangement. It is the one most likely to attract government funding due to the improvement in journey costs and other aspects.

The other option is a one-way dual hamburger, which would perform the second best of all the options in terms of reducing queues, improving safety and providing good cycle and pedestrian facilities. Visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/birchleyisland to find out more.

Berahino to face charge

WEST Bromwich Albion star Saido Berahino is to appear in court over a drink-driving charge.

The 21-year-old was arrested by police in October after being stopped in the early hours of the morning on the M6. Police said that Berahino will appear before Runcorn Magistrates' Court on January 19.

Berahino, who scored four times against Gateshead in the FA Cup has been linked with a move away from the Hawthorns.

There's an "APP" for your Local

Download on the App Store — search for County Cars

Google play — search for County Cars gpc

LOOK CHEAPEST TAXI FARES AROUND FARES FROM £2.60!*

Ring Back: We dead ring you when 1 minute away
Text Back: We text your phone when 1 minute away

Book, Pre-Book and Track Your Taxi from the APP 0121 505 5555 0121 522 2233

*dependent on mileage

CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	7
Memory Lane	18
TV	23
Motoring	35
Classifieds	38
Sport	43-44

CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered? The Chronicle and Express & Star have a team of reporters covering Sandwell who can help:

Heather Large: 01384 353203
heather.large@expressandstar.co.uk
Alex Ross: 01384 353207
alex-ross@expressandstar.co.uk
Andrew Turton: 01384 353202
andrew.turton@expressandstar.co.uk
Lee Watton: 01384 353230
lee.watton@expressandstar.co.uk
Charlie Benton: 01384 353201
charlie.benton@expressandstar.co.uk

What's happening in your area? We are always keen to hear about any issues affecting you. E-mail your information and pictures to: Sandwell.Chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Sports:
Tel: 01902 319453, e-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

Photographic
Tel: John Sambrooks 01902 319431

Advertising:
Nicky Cope
01902 319573
Email nicola.cope@expressandstar.co.uk

Property:
Colin Bailey
Tel: 01902 4444331
E-mail: c.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

Motoring:
Jayne La Hiffe
Tel: 01543 465344
E-mail: jayne.lahiffe@expressandstar.co.uk

Classified:
Tel: 01902 317878

Classified trade:
Tel: 01902 319191

Distribution:
Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

SANDWELL CHRONICLE

51-53, Queen Street
Wolverhampton
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm
and 2pm-5pm
www.yourchronicle.com

Drug dealer in swoop is spared jail

A DRUG dealer caught with £14,000 worth of cocaine and £6,000 cash has been saved from an immediate stint behind bars by his honesty.

Police found rolls of bank notes and bags of drugs in a house in Henley Close, Tipton, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. The cocaine was hidden in a box in a bedroom and in a kitchen cupboard, said Mr Hugh Williams, prosecuting.

Officers also arrested a man who was at the address when they swooped on July 26, the court was told. Information gathered at the scene led police to another address in Pound Road, Wednesbury, where Shezad Hussain, aged 35, was in the shower, continued the prosecutor.

Hussain showed officers where another haul of cocaine was concealed in a coat hanging in a wardrobe and in a drawer, said Mr Williams. More money was found bringing the total to £14,400 worth of cocaine and about £6,000 cash.

Miss Blondelle Thompson, defending, observed: "He was very frank with the police in interview. He also took full responsibility for the haul and made clear that the man arrested at the other property had nothing to do with it." Hussain, now living in Nottingham, pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine with intent to supply and possession of criminal property. He was given a two-year jail sentence suspended under supervision for two years while attending a drug rehabilitation programme.

Judge Michael Dudley said: "You have escaped prison by a hair's breadth."

£300,000 to pay for schools' foreign pupils

TWO schools are set to receive almost £300,000 to help deal with an influx of foreign pupils. It was revealed recently that up to140 languages are spoken in Sandwell schools.

Holly Lodge Science College and Shireland Collegiate Academy say that the 'high-cost pupils' mean they are having to employ more teachers and create extra classrooms to cope with the influx.

At Holly Lodge Science College in Smethwick, the school had 50 extra mid-term admissions in just over a year, with 27 of those being new to the UK or having English as an additional language. The school has had to employ three extra teachers as well as four learning support assistants.

At Shireland Collegiate Academy, also in Smethwick, there have been 34 extra mid-term pupils over one year. The school says the majority of the new admissions do not speak English as a first language or have special needs – one pupil could not write in any language.

Both schools have requested money from Sandwell Council. Holly Lodge had asked for £209,090, but is set to receive £134,172. Shireland Collegiate will get £142,188. The funding will come from a £1 million contingency fund set up to give extra cash to schools who have pupils arriving mid-term, including those new to the country.

Principal Schools Accountant Rosemarie Kerr states in a report: "A few schools are reporting operational and financial difficulties as they work with the authority when providing additional classes and accepting mid-term admissions pupils. A significant proportion being new arrivals, who as well as having English as an additional language, present with high deprivation needs."

Food allergy advice due for eateries

COUNCIL bosses are offering restaurants, cafes and takeaways advice following the introduction of new food allergy laws.

All premises are required to tell customers what is in their food that could cause an allergic reaction.

Help is on offer from Sandwell Council for firms who need advice on how to comply with the new rules which came into force last month.

Councillor Paul Moore, cabinet member for trading standards, said: "We are working with food businesses to help them.

"The new rules will enable customers to make safe and informed choices about what to eat when eating out.

"If this information is not provided, they can take action by complaining to trading standards."

The new rules apply to 14 foods that can cause allergic reactions including eggs, fish, milk and nuts.

Customers, or parents of children, with allergies are encouraged to carry 'chef advice cards' which are available to download from the Food Standards Agency website.

This can be accessed by logging in at www.food.gov.uk/allergy

Retirement is a new Dawn

Handing flowers to Dawn were, Joe Labram, six, Billy Baker, 10 and Lexie Hall, seven

AFTER 26 years at a primary school in West Bromwich – eight of them spent as catering manager – Dawn Cox is hanging up her school apron for the last time.

Pupils at Moorlands Primary School in West Bromwich held a special assembly for 62-year-old Mrs Cox where she was presented with flowers and gifts.

"After 26 years I am really going to miss it here, it has been absolutely fantastic but it is time for me to put my feet up," she said.

"I started off working in other schools in the West Bromwich area doing general kitchen duties before I moved to here. I did a City and Guilds qualification at Sandwell College to become a catering manager.

"The children have got me through everything, they have always been my top priority. I have always made sure that the children are well looked after and leave the school with full stomachs."

Mrs Cox is now planning spend her retirement relaxing and travelling with her husband Ian, 57.

City Link workers' lifeline by firm

DELIVERY firm APC Overnight held a recruitment open day for former City Link employees, offering 100 jobs to workers who were made redundant on Christmas Day. At City Link's Wednesbury depot, 47 staff have lost their jobs, with just four kept on.

The rival company announced on December 30 that it was making up to 100 jobs available to former City Link employees following the collapse of the firm which left about 600 West Midland staff jobless.

Emma Scott, APC Overnight's head of human resources, said: "We've organised the recruitment day to provide further information on the roles that we currently have on offer.

"There are some highly talented people out there who are unfortunately now having to look for new jobs and we want to do all we can to make them aware of some of the opportunities which are available to them at APC."

Across the country, 2,356 City Link staff were made redundant, including staff at the firm's Coventry headquarters.

City Link was losing half a million pounds a week when it went into administration.

Rail journeys on increase

THE number of train journeys taken in the West Midlands has risen for the 13th consecutive year. Figures for 2013/14 show that there were 48.5million journeys, an increase of two million on 2013/14.

Since 2000, when figures dropped as low as 22.8m, the number of rail journeys in the region has increased every year.

The latest hike comes despite rail fares going up by 3.1 per cent. The increase of journeys is the third highest in the country. Rail journeys per population remains the highest in Merseyside.

Night of nature

TICKETS are being sold for a night to seek out bats and moths in Willenhall on April 10. The Creatures of the Night will be at Fibbersley Local Nature Reserve. Tickets cost £3 for adults and £1.50 for children. To book, email bowersm@walsall.gov.uk or call 01922 654220.

SELL • REPAIR • UNLOCK • SELL • REPAIR • UNLOCK • SELL • REPAIR • UNLOCK •

- All phone screens & laptops repaired on site
- iPhone 4, 5 and iPad repairs carried out by a fully qualified iTechnician
- Fast, efficient and reliable same-day service

- Wide range of 'Pay As You Go' Phones
- Brand New Mobiles from just £19
- Covers
- Home and In Car Chargers
- Headphones
- Batteries
- Vast Range of Accessories

Talk n Talk Mobiles & Repair Centre 81 Great Bridge, Tipton DY4 7AY Tel: 07825 414759

Spellar in attack on minister over cuts

SUGGESTIONS by the head of the police watchdog that officers may have to ignore crimes such as shoplifting and anti-social behaviour due to budget cuts have been branded 'ridiculous' by a Black Country MP.

Chief Inspector of Constabulary Sir Tom Winsor said police would have to focus on the 'crimes that matter most to people' due to shrinking officer numbers. He said 'nobody would argue shoplifting was as serious as violent assault'.

But speaking during a House of Commons debate on the future of Police and Crime Commissioners, Warley MP John Spellar said there needed to be a greater commitment to supporting local policing.

Addressing Policing Minister Michael Penning, the Labour MP said: "Does the minister recognise that the Police and Crime Commissioners can work only within the resources and policy frameworks that are set nationally?

"Will he take this opportunity to support community policing and to reject the ridiculous suggestion from Tom Winsor that the police should ignore offences such as shoplifting and anti-social behaviour?"

Food bank in donations call

A BLACK Country food bank is appealing for extra donations following its busiest time of the year.

Breaking Bread, based in Walsall Street Wednesbury said volunteers had been overwhelmed by donations.

Volunteer coordinator at the food bank, John Steventon said: "We have had such a fantastic response from the public. We had a young couple come in to us who asked what donations we accepted, they went away and came back with a boot full of shopping." It is open Wednesday 10am-3pm and Friday 1pm-7pm.

Alert on works

MOTORISTS will face delays during roadworks in Walsall starting next week. This is to allow for manhole frame and cover repairs along Bell Lane, at the junction of Sycamore Road, Walsall, on January 13. Restrictions will be in place 9.30am to 3.30pm.

Disorder by football fans on trains increases

THE number of recorded crimes on West Midlands trains and railway stations by football fans on matchdays has risen in the last two years, new figures suggest.

Violence, public order offences and drug use are among the crimes recorded by British Transport Police since 2012.

Railway stations including Wolverhampton, Bescot near Walsall's Banks's Stadium, and The Hawthorns train and Midland Metro stations are among the areas where offences have occurred.

New figures released through a Freedom of Information request show there were 65 offences classed as 'football related' in 2012-13.

But this figure rises to 73 offences between 2013-14 across the West Midlands.

British Transport Police says it has worked with train companies to step up efforts to ensure fans and other passengers have trouble free journeys on matchdays this season.

Assistant Chief Constable Stephen Thomas, who oversees the force's matchday policing, says alcohol can play a part in disorder but said the majority of fans provide no problems.

Public order crimes are the highest number of offences recorded by British Transport Police with 104 incidents in the last two years. The number of violent crimes recorded did fall from 10 in 2012-13 to three in 2013-14.

Officers say they use intelligence to identify which clubs supporters follow as part of investigations.

Wolverhampton Wanderers fans were recorded to have committed 23 offences in the last two years, West Bromwich Albion supporters 18 and Walsall four.

Aston Villa fans committed 34 offences and Birmingham City supporters 35 while one crime was recorded against a Kidderminster Harriers follower.

Asst Ch Cons Thomas said: "The vast majority of travelling fans cause no problems at all.

"Sadly, however, some supporters do go too far, overstepping the mark by becoming offensive and even violent.

"Thankfully, these incidents are relatively rare and carried out by a minority of travelling fans, but when they do happen they can be extremely frightening and intimidating for other passengers."

Activities to monitor disturbances includes monitoring trains, officers travelling with fans to and from games by train, plain clothes work and preventing problematic fans travelling and taking action where required.

Jail for eight cousins in car parts export racket

By Adam Burling

EIGHT men from the Black Country are behind bars after cars across the Midlands were stolen to order, dismantled and the parts shipped to the Middle East.

The gang was sentenced for a conspiracy to steal 4x4 Toyota and Vauxhalls, which they would scour the streets of the Midlands for.

The men – from Bilston,Walsall, Brierley Hill, Dudley, and London – appeared at Worcester Crown Court after pleading guilty to conspiring to steal motor vehicles and were jailed for a total of 28 years and nine months.

There were 81 thefts and attempted thefts throughout Staffordshire, West Midlands,Warwickshire, West Mercia, Derbyshire and Leicestershire between March 2012 and April 2013.

Weighed

The makes and models of the vehicles stolen were predominantly Toyota Hilux, Toyota Hiace, Toyota Landcruiser and Vauxhall Brava vehicles, which were taken from properties across Warwickshire in Rugby, Tamworth, Atherstone and Kineton, as well as throughout West Mercia in Bromsgrove, Worcester, Kidderminster, Market Drayton, Bridgnorth and Telford.

The stolen vehicles were dismantled with the engines and gear boxes being exported to the United Arab Emirates, while the remainder of the chassis and shells were weighed in at scrap yards.

The gang had found out that the parts, in particular those from Toyota 2L engines, were in high demand in the Middle East so they set up a rapidly-expanding operation.

A ninth man Yawar Jaffari, 42, from London, had links to the United Arab Emirates and acted as the go-between of the scam.

He would take orders from contacts abroad and pass them on to his accomplices in the Black Country, who then stole whatever had been requested.

The vehicles would then be taken to the Cannock Wood Industrial Estate in Cannock Wood Street, where the men worked from three units.

They started out at a site in Torton Paddock, Kidderminster that was owned by Rocky Butler, of Dudley, but needed to move to bigger premises as demand rocketed.

All eight men were cousins and had grown up together in Blakenall, Walsall. Once they got involved with Jaffari, they began stealing the cars and within weeks had a regular export line running.

The cars were stolen after dark, and the thieves planned ahead by scouring streets for the models they wanted.

Their routes would be drawn up in advance, and as they expanded they moved further afield to work their way across the Midlands.

Police welcomed the sentences handed out and said many traders had been hit when their work vehicles were stolen.

Chiefs said the complex investigation had spanned months and involved officers from a range of forces.

Leslie Taylor, 33, of Rosewood Court in Bilston, was jailed for four years; Rocky Butler, 35, of Fullwood Crescent in Dudley, got five years and four months; James Bailey, 36, of Edison Road in Walsall was sentenced to five years and four months; Richard Edwards, 29, of Chapel Street in Brierley Hill got two years; James Taylor, 26, of Harden Close in Walsall was jailed for two years and eight months; Terence Gould, 46, of Botany Road, Walsall got two years; Colin Brookes, 30, of Hunter Crescent in Walsall was sentenced to two years; and Paul Kendall, 42, of Irvine Road in Walsall got one year and four months.

Bailey leased out the units in Cannock and, along with Butler and Leslie Taylor, was seen as one of the leaders of the racket.

Police said Leslie Taylor was the main thief, while Butler split his time between stealing the cars and handling the parts after they had been dismantled.

The rest were seen as footsoldiers keeping the operation moving, with Gould passing the car shells on to scrapyards.

Luke Moore, 26, of Leys Crescent in Brierley Hill and Gary Winter, 31, of Goscote Place in Walsall have previously been convicted and sentenced for their parts. Moore received a suspended sentence and Winter was sentenced to 16 weeks in prison. Jaffari, 42, of Carlton Road in London, got three years and nine months.

DC Karl High, of West Mercia Police, said: "This was a lengthy investigation."

Colin Brookes, aged 30

Paul Kendall, aged 42

Richard Edwards, aged 29

James Taylor, aged 26

James Bailey, aged 36

Rocky Butler, aged 35

Terence Gould, aged 46

Leslie Taylor, aged 33

NEWS IN BRIEF

Supercars on display at NEC

THE latest supercars will be featured in the Performance Car Show at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre until January 11.

The show presented by Landsail Tyres in association with Autocar and PistonHeads is held alongside Europe's largest dedicated motorsport show, Autosport International.

The Mercedes F1, which was driven by Lewis Hamilton to win the world championship, will lead a showcase display. For tickets visit www.performancecarshow.com

Activity room is given an upgrade

AN activity room at a centre which supports people with disabilities has had its facilities and sports equipment upgraded.

Sandwell Asian Family Support Service's activity room at its Fenton Street centre in Smethwick has a new dining table and chairs, sports equipment and interactive art pieces.

Smethwick Tesco Metro supermarket gave £3,000 towards the charity.

The newly-refurbished area has been designed to be homely and inviting.

Lucky escape for woman on tracks

A YOUNG woman was lucky to escape injury after she fell onto tracks as a train came into Birmingham's New Street station.

Paramedics found the woman, who is in her early 20s, at around 6pm on Monday West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Murray MacGregor, said: "Astonishingly, she appeared to have no injury from her close shave with the train."

Men injured in fall off building

TWO men have been injured after falling around 30ft off an industrial building in Birmingham.

Emergency services were called to the site in Grosvenor Road, Aston shortly after 11am on Monday. A man in his 40s had fractures to his skull, jaw, a wrist and a leg. A second man, who is in his 30s, had a suspected pelvic fracture.

Victim is treated

A MAN was hit by a car in Walsall on Friday. The collision happened in Littleton Street West at 1.45pm and he was taken to Manor Hospital, but his injuries were not thought to be serious.

BARGAIN BLINDS
WE GUARANTEE TO BEAT ANY LIKE FOR LIKE QUOTE
QUALITY BLINDS
6 Child Safe Vertical Blinds From £169 Fully Fitted
All Other Blinds Reduced
Celebrating Our 15th Year
VERTICALS, ROLLERS, VENETIANS, ROMANS, VELUX, PLEATED, PATIO AWNINGS AND CURTAINS, CONSERVATORY & CURVED BLIND SPECIALISTS
FREE Quote FREE Fitting
FREE Child Safety Features
Free Phone 0800 0347 111
Sandwell -www.ukbargainblinds.co.uk

Elite Property Services
AT LAST! A COMPANY YOU CAN TRUST & RELY ON
10% Discount with this advert
Repair Centre
WINDOW, DOOR & CONSERVATORY REPAIRS
We offer a complete repair service on all uPVC Windows & Doors
• Broken or Misted Double Glazed Units Replaced
• Handles, Letterboxes, Hinges Replaced
• uPVC Door Lock Specialists
• Dropped Doors Re-Aligned
• All Work Fully Guaranteed
• Free Assessment & Quotation
• Burglar Alarms
• CCTV Systems
• Beat The "Gold Thief".....
High Quality SAFES Fully Fitted from £150
Call Now For Your FREE Quote
0121 556 7771 • 07412 766665
24HR Emergency Number 07834 882294
Head Office: 132 Walsall Road, West Bromwich B71 3HP
www.Elite-Property-Services.co.uk

NEW YEAR SALE UP TO 25% OFF
KITCHENS | BATHROOMS | BEDROOMS
10 REASONS TO HAVE AN IDEAL HOMECARE BATHROOM / KITCHEN / BEDROOM
1 Family business established over 25 years
2 Vast majority of work comes from recommendations
3 FREE home design service, we listen to you and design to your requirements
4 Large choice of design, 100s of doors, worktops, tiles, sinks and taps to choose from, but do not worry, we are here to help and advise what is right for you
5 We project manage from start to finish
6 We can supply only, or complete the whole project, including tiling, electrics, plumbing, building, plastering and even decorating
7 All rubbish removed at the end of the project
8 Gas Safe fitters (formerly Corgi)
9 NICEIC Registered electricians
10 Quality products at realistic prices
OPENING TIMES:
Mon-Fri 10am -4pm
Saturday 10am-2pm
Closed Wed and Sun
Other Times By Appointment
The Home Improvement Specialist
ideal HOMECARE
Established over 25 years
5 Hall Green Road, Stone Cross, West Bromwich, B71 3JS
Telephone: 0121 588 5737
www.idealhomecare.co.uk

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE festive specials of Celebrity Mastermind (BBC1) were a timely reminder that a) you can be a celebrity without anybody knowing who you are, and b) celebrities can get on Mastermind without knowing much about anything.

JIM Naughtie on Today (Radio 4) takes this winter's prize for being the first to warn us of "feezing frog."

LEAVING aside any concerns about Whitehall's latest plan to turn women into trench-fighting soldiers, aren't you a wee bit depressed at headlines such as "Female troops on the front line by 2016"? I hope by 2016 we won't have any front lines.

HIGHLIGHT of the festive viewing for me was yet another repeat of The Muppet Christmas Carol. When the film was released in 1992 the cast came to Birmingham on a promotional trip and I got to chat in a hotel bedroom with Miss Piggy, Kermit and the Great Gonzo. Best interview ever.

OUR changing language. Or to be more accurate, the Yanks' changing language. The US news channel CNN carries an online report about the Nigerian families whose girls were kidnapped by Boko Haram terrorists. It is headlined: "Holidays Without Our Missing Girls." The distraught mother of one girl said: "It is a bad Christmas." The father said: "Every Christmas, we used to be complete and happy." The whole essence of this story was about loss at Christmas. No-one said a word about "holidays." But in the United States the word Christmas is deemed to be non-inclusive and politically incorrect. So they insert the word "holidays" instead, even when the result is gibberish.

FAT, flabby, wheezing, unhealthy. It is hard to move through the sales crowds without concluding that we Brits are a grossly unfit bunch. So when the Defence Secretary Michael Fallon (who has never served a day in uniform) declares: "Our armed forces should reflect the society they serve," he is spouting dangerous nonsense. Our armed forces should be the toughest, strongest, brightest young men and women we can possibly recruit. We want Her Majesty's finest, not the Queen's Own Lardarses.

IF, like me, you are suspicious of anything connecting you, or your money, to the internet, here's something new to worry about. We all know computer webcams can be switched on by a malicious virus without the owner's knowledge. A reader writes of his fears about a new generation of smart televisions with voice-command function. Once you agree to the terms and conditions, the software is installed and you can change your internet-connected TV to a new channel simply by asking for it, via a microphone within the set. My reader asks: "If the microphone is active, what else might be transmitted from one's living room or even bedroom? How long would it take a hacker to override any safeguards, or am I being paranoid?"

WHY does God allow innocent shoppers to be mown down and killed by a lorry in Glasgow? Within hours of the tragedy a reader who describes himself as a Christian emailed me: "Many people (non-Christians) find it difficult to accept that God does things His way which is not the way they would like. However, this has to be accepted and not doing so is in itself a sin." So that's all right, then. And if you don't think it's all right, you're a sinner. If you reckon the Islamic State is a tad extreme, you'd be amazed what some Brits believe.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Mansion house views call by Watson

AN MP has called for residents to lodge their views on controversial plans to turn a Great Barr mansion house into residential homes ahead of a decision being made.

Proposals to transform The Red House in Great Barr into eight apartments have been unveiled by developer GR8 Space Ltd. But people hoping to retain the site for community use have hit back by objecting to the proposal and launching a petition.

West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson said community use had always been the preferred option for the house which sits within Red House Park but it was unlikely due to the high costs involved.

He has now called for public access to the park to be retained if planning permission is granted by Sandwell Council. "From some of the residents I've spoken to in the area, the main concerns appears to be about the building of the six three-bedroom houses, loss of public parking and increase in traffic along Hill Lane," Mr Watson said.

"I've worked with the Friends of Red House Park group over many years and we've had to reluctantly accept that there is little prospect of the mansion being brought back into community use because of the cost. However, any proposals for the site being brought back into use need to be right for the community. I'm keen to encourage as many constituents as possible to make their views known, either by contacting Sandwell Council's planning department directly or getting in touch with me."

Council considers tax freeze for residents

COUNCIL tax in Sandwell will be frozen for the fifth year under proposals being drawn up to help cash-strapped families.

But council leader, Darren Cooper, said the move was hitting the authority as it tries to balance budgets in the midst of multi-million pound cuts. Councillor Cooper said the authority knows people are struggling as the cost of living and energy bills rise while their wages do not.

By Andrew Turton

And he said officials are doing all they can to protect frontline services in the face of cuts while not burdening families further. The council has to make £63 million cuts by 2017.

Councillor Cooper said a motion for the council tax freeze will be discussed after plans are finalised at the end of this month. He said the move would allow them to take a grant offered by the Government designed to offset the loss through not imposing tax increases.

"I'd say it is very, very likely there will be a council tax freeze next year," Councillor Cooper said.

"The Government have said they will give councils a grant for freezing council tax. But again we are actually not doing ourselves any favours in the long term because what it does is erodes your base budgets away."

Homeowners in Band D properties in Sandwell currently pay £1,175.73 to Sandwell Council in council tax payments. However, charges will still be made by the Fire Authority and Police and Crime Commissioner. Sandwell Council received £1,043,727 for its freeze grant allocation from the Government in 2013/14. It is predicted that if the authority votes in favour of a council tax freeze it would receive £1,053,556 for 2015/16 from the Government.

Earlier this month, council chiefs decided not to levy a minimum council tax charge for Sandwell residents. Sandwell Council had been considering making all working age residents pay at least 12 per cent of the applicable rates on their property, even if they had previously been eligible to have the bill paid for them due to beingon benefits.

Councils had to come up with their own arrangements after the Government scrapped council tax benefit, with some scrapping discounts for working age people and others absorbing the cost in their own budgets.

School looking to expand

A primary school in West Bromwich is looking to expand.

Holy Trinity CofE Primary School on Trinity Way wants to add a new classroom block and additional parking.

The school is also hoping to extend its reception area and carry out landscaping.

A planning report submitted to Sandwell Council says: "The construction of the new classrooms will provide more school places for local children."

However, some residents have objected to nearby Trinity Road South being made one way and being linked to Trinity Way as part of the overhaul of the connecting road.

Fundraisers dancing for joy

From left, youngsters Freya Poulton, Rebecca Atkins, and Kilby Ward, with Lindsey

A DANCE school has raised £2650 for Cure Leukaemia at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Members of the Wednesfield-based Linzi G School of Dance performed to over 700 people at Coppice Performing Arts School over one weekend in November.

Money raised from ticket sales on November 15 and 16 is going straight to Cure Leukaemia. Extra funds were raised through the sale of a performance arts CD, Musical Moments. Lindsey Grant, aged 22, principal at the school, said: "I love my job. I just can't believe how much money we managed to raise.

"With 100 people backstage, it was very manic, but this is what I've always dreamed of and it really is a dream come true."

Miss Grant's dad was diagnosed with Leukaemia in 2001. "This is a charity that is close to all of our hearts," she added.

The Linzi G School of Dance has more events and fundraising planned for 2015. For more information see linzigdance.co.uk

730,000 shoppers in festive outings

MORE than 730,000 festive shoppers flocked to West Bromwich's New Square centre in December – an increase of 73 per cent from last year. Bosses at the shopping centre, which opened in July 2013, said December was its busiest month since it started trading.

The figures come as new names are set to open branches at the complex later this year including Specsavers, Charlie Browns, family pub chain Hungry Horse and Claire's Accessories. Indoor soft play centre Funky Monkeys will open its second base in England at New Square in the spring. While Shoe Zone and Thomson Travel Store opened new stores in the run up to Christmas.

Figures released by the shopping centre show its busiest day was Christmas Eve when 36,000 shoppers came through the doors. On Boxing Day there were 28,000 visitors including more than 500 people who began queuing before 6am the ever-popular Next sale.

Manager Steve Burr said: "We've had a fantastic Christmas with the centre seeing its busiest ever day for footfall. Retailers have also reported strong sales figures throughout the period."

Six cars left running go

AT least six cars were stolen in the space of a few hours on New Year's eve, after owners left them running to de-ice.

The Central Motorway Police Group @CMPG Twitter account updated the numbers throughout the morning, with cars stolen from various areas in the West Midlands including Walsall, Cradley Heath, and the Wolverhampton/Staffs border area.

West Midlands Police has repeatedly warned people throughout the recent frosty spell to stay with their car while it defrosts.

Housing due

DEVELOPERS plan to put a house on land once occupied by a builders' merchants The proposals are for a four bedroom detached house in Green Lane, Aldridge near the A452 Chester Road junction. Walsall planners are recommended to approve the scheme.

Amritsar call by MP as papers withheld

SANDWELL MP Tom Watson is leading calls for David Cameron to release confidential papers concerning relations between the Thatcher government and India in the 1980s.

Last year Sikh leaders demanded an apology after government papers released under the 30-year rule revealed an SAS officer had advised the Indian government ahead of the massacre of hundreds of dissidents at the Golden Temple of Amritsar.

The Indian Government approached the UK for help following the occupation of the Golden Temple and the adviser had gone to India in February 1984, four months before the attack called Operation Bluestar.

However, four files have not yet been released. Three are from the prime minister's office and one is from the Cabinet Office. West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson said: "The Bluestar papers have been withheld. David Cameron said they'd be published. He should honour his pledge."

Last year former foreign secretary William Hague described the loss of life as 'an utter tragedy' but said the advice given had 'limited impact' on the operation as it was not followed.

Woman hurt in flat fire

A woman was treated for minor burns after a candle sparked a blaze in a Smethwick flat.

Three fire crews tackled the blaze in the second floor flat above Shukla newsagents in High Street.

Firefighters from Smethwick, Handsworth and West Bromwich stations attended at 10.25pm on Christmas Day.

A West Midlands Fire Service spokeswoman said: "It is believed a candle set fire to a set of curtains in the front living room."

A 41-year-old woman was taken to Sandwell Hospital.

Library brews

PEOPLE can enjoy a cuppa at a open morning taking place at a Black Country library. Staff are hoping to 'spread a little happiness' with their Brew Monday event on January 19. It will be held at Great Barr Library from 10.30am. For details call 0121 357 1340.

Fan zone in pipeline as buildings set to go

The Hawthorns Pub

A WEST Bromwich Albion 'fan zone' is a step closer to reality after planners approved the demolition of existing buildings.

Last month, the club revealed plans to transform the derelict Hawthorns pub next to the Birmingham Road ground.

Approval has now been granted to knock down the Grade II listed building's 'west wing' to make way for the fan zone, which has been inspired by similar projects across the country including one outside Liverpool's Anfield ground.

Parts of the building and the land around it, including the current car park, will house the new facility.

The pub on the junction with Halfords Lane closed in 2009 and was bought by the club a year later. Planning permission was secured earlier this year to demolish its 'east' and 'south' wings.

All three wings were added in the 20th century with the central section of the pub dating back to 1845. Plans already approved would see the historic core turned into a drive-through coffee shop, which Baggies officials hope will display club memorabilia and form the centerpiece of the fan zone.

The fan zone would have live music, children's activities, food, drink and merchandise stands and a big screen linked to the system inside the ground. Officials hope to launch it by the start of next season.

The fireplace in the west wing is believed to be the only internal feature of heritage interest in the section and will be relocated to an original chimney breast location.

The wing itself is not believed to be of any historical or architectural interest.

Michael Magnall, assistant director at AFLSP architects, said: "The fireplace is the only internal feature of heritage interest in the West Wing. It is the principle north elevation which best exhibits the classicism of the Regency influences in this early Victorian House."

Official supporters club chairman John Homer welcomed the fan zone plans when revealed in November. He said: "It is an admirable idea."

Battle is on to block store being built at pub car park

Report by Rob Cox

CAMPAIGNERS are gearing up to fight plans to build a convenience store on the car park of a popular Cradley Heath pub.

Proposals for the Co-Operative store at the Haden Cross Inn in Halesowen have been lodged with Sandwell Council and will be considered in the coming weeks.

The scheme would reduce parking spaces for pub-goers from 30 to just five.

Chairman of the Friends of Haden Cross Inn group, Tim Haskey, thinks this would be the end for the pub and create its own problems. He said: "The first issue and the reason we are campaigning is to save the pub. But there is also the issue of health and safety.

"The pub is on a busy road and although this shop may not increase traffic it would increase the number of manoeuvres on and off the car park. It is an accident waiting to happen if there was to be a pub and a shop.

"A third issue is we just don't need another convenience store around here."

New River Retail, which owns the Haden Cross, said the proposals had been designed to help safeguard the future of the pub.

But more than 400 people have signed a petition against the plans and the friends group is working to get the pub recognised as an 'asset of community value'.

Mr Haskey believes it would be worthy of the title with its own football team and three darts teams.

He added: "Before 11am, when the pub is shut, the car park is empty. But from 3pm most days it is full.

"There is a quiz night on the Thursday, on a Saturday the football team come in and there are darts on both Monday and Wednesday."

The friends group is holding a public meeting at the pub on January 13 from 7.30pm.

They have invited James Morris, Conservative MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, and Labour's parliamentary candidate for the seat, Stephanie Peacock.

Mr Haskey added: "The community needs a foal point. The pub is used by youngsters and older people as well."

The Haden Cross Pub on Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath

Campaigners in the car park where a Co-op will be sited

Campaign – Tim Haskey, Mike Shackleton and Huw

Baggies fans say they are pleased with Pulis

WEST Bromwich Albion fans have been sharing their joy over the club's decision to appoint Tony Pulis as their new manager – believing he is the man to guide them to safety.

The Albion hierarchy didn't wait long before opting for the former Stoke City and Crystal Palace manager. A worrying slump in form which had seen the Baggies lose seven of their last nine games was enough to make chairman Jeremy Peace call time on Irvine's short-lived tenure.

The majority of fans believe it was the right call and that Pulis will halt the club's slide towards the Premier League relegation zone. His style of play has come into question during his managerial career, but Baggies fans said they were only concerned about one thing – results.

Albion currently sit 17th, just one point above the bottom three.

Supporter Phil Knowles, from Brierley Hill, who works as a salesman, said: "I'm enthusiastic about it, he's got a proven track record and has never been relegated.

"Under Irvine we were going nowhere. He was far too negative, it was time to change, the sooner the better. From the start I thought appointing Irvine was a strange decision," said the 54-year-old.

Computer engineer John Partridge, 48, originally from Tipton but now living in Wolverhampton, said: "He is someone who is going to get the players back into shape, I think some of them were a bit comfy under Irvine. There is a bit of regret with him going but he couldn't stamp his authority on the team. Pulis will bring different things to the table and the club has to get behind the manager."

Season ticket holder Darren Bayliss, a factory worker from Brierley Hill, aged 48, said: "Look at his record, he knows how to keep teams up but there is work to do, it has been pretty poor up here this year."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Persian restaurant opens in town

A new family run Persian restaurant has opened in Smethwick bringing five jobs.

Azadi Restaurant, Lightwoods Road, Smethwick, last month.

The restaurant has two chefs creating traditional Iranian dishes and two staff front of house.

Manager, Moosa Shendi, said: "We are a family-run business, we have been working on the restaurant since we bought it so it is great that we are finally open. We are hoping to employ more staff in the future."

School looking to create special unit

SANDWELL Academy in West Bromwich has lodged plans for an extension to create a behaviour unit.

It will be used to help students who are struggling in school and need to be separated.

The school has previously used a room at the Hawthorns.

A two-storey extension will be built to the existing changing room block on the school's northern site.

Plans for the development have been submitted to Sandwell Council.

Problems cause trains disruption

TRAIN commuters in the Black Country faced delays and disruption because of signalling problems.

Services between Walsall and Wolverhampton were hit by problems on New Year's eve near Birmingham New Street, resulting in trains not stopping at Perry Barr, Witton, Aston or Duddeston.

The issue was reported at just after 8am and was resolved by just after 1pm.

Office block sold off for £220,000

A FORMER council office block in West Bromwich has been sold off.

The council signalled it was to sell off Dartmouth House, in Sandwell Road, last year after relocating Community Care and Sandwell Inspired Partnership Services.

At a recent auction, the 7,653 sq ft two storey block was sold for £220,000.

Thieves take car

THIEVES drove off in a car left with the engine running in icy conditions in Cradley Heath. The grey Volkswagen Passat was stolen from a property in Hardwick Drive shortly before 9.15 am last Tuesday.

SOFAS & CHAIRS
Large Choice of Recliners and Fireside Chairs
Visit Our Showroom and Compare Our Quality and Very Keen Prices
Sherborne
2 & 5 year warranty on comfy, high back, recliner models from great established company.
WE ARE HERE
Greets Green Rd
WEST BROMWICH
Brandon Way
SOFAHOUSE Tile Choice
Ryders Green Rd
Oldbury Rd
Whitehall Rd
BURNTREE/ DUDLEY
Great Bridge High St
ASDA
Cushion Refills from £25
"All of our sofas are made on the premises with care and pride"
Martin & Neil
Unit 6, Queens Court Industrial Estate, Greets Green Road, West Bromwich B70 9EG
THE SOFAHOUSE LTD. Done the Old Fashioned Way!
Tel: 0121 520 3111
www.sofahouseupholstery.co.uk

IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

KEANE flips! So screamed the headline of one national tabloid after it emerged that the fiery former Republic of Ireland star had sought a confrontation with Villa on-loan midfielder Tom Cleverley at his home.

Apparently, Keano – to those not familiar with The Beautiful Game, he is the one with the beard like Saddam Hussein while he was on the run – thought Cleverley was behind newspaper stories about training-ground bust-ups during his short-lived spell as Villa's assistant manager.

So how did Keane flip exactly? Did he:

(a) Grab Cleverley in a headlock, lift him over his shoulder, and then slam dunk him on top of his water feature?

(b) Confront him in his kitchen, slap him about a bit with a fresh kipper, before continuing the fight outside, culminating in a spot of grappling in the swimming pool?

(c) Ring his doorbell 'very aggressively' and wait outside, before deciding Cleverley was not at home and driving off.

The answer, by the way is (c). Not exactly Keith Moon, is he?

rrrrr

A judge has granted an injunction to stop boy racers wreaking mayhem on the streets of the Black Country and surrounding areas, saying there appeared to be 'complete lawlessness' around the problem. The move follows a similar injunction which was granted in 2012.

It is hardly a new problem. I remember it first rearing its head around 15 years ago, when hundreds, if not thousands, of the blighters used to meet up around the Merry Hill centre and neighbouring industrial estates every Thursday nights.

During the research for one story about this, I even had to buy a copy of a boy racer magazine which had allegedly been encouraging these meets.

Boy, that took some front. I sat for around five minutes outside the newsagents in my totally conventional and unmodified car, trying to work out a strategy for buying this dubious publication without feeling too embarrassed. I dunno, maybe buying a few 'adult' magazines to hide it in or something.

Anyway, the magazine did cast a rather fascinating light into this bizarre sub-culture. For example, it came with a free CD featuring timeless tracks such as 'Big Up Your Spliff' or 'Time To Get Ill'. Like you hear in the background at all the best dinner parties.

Strangest of all was the fact that many of the people who attended these meetings were not from the vicinity at all. Some of them would diligently drive their garish-looking vehicles all the way from places like Brighton or Leeds just to experience the delights of a Thursday night KFC car park in Brierley Hill.

I've often wondered what happened to these people.

Paradise Circus as it should look on its completion in 2025, bringing with it new public areas and 10 new buildings as part of a £500 million scheme

Brum drives ahead with £500m boost

The transformation of much of Birmingham city centre has now begun. **HEATHER LARGE** reports

WORK on the £500 million transformation of Paradise Circus in the heart of Birmingham city centre has got underway this week.

Road closures and diverted bus routes have been announced as part of the massive 10-year project, which will see the old library demolished and new offices, shops and walkways created.

The completed scheme, which is expected to create 15,000 jobs, will eventually see new public areas and up to 10 new buildings including a hotel with 250 bedrooms.

Work is expected to finish in 2025.

Changes

Paradise Circus Limited Partnership – a joining together of Birmingham City Council and BT Pension Scheme - is behind the development.

The developers have announced a series of road closures as work takes place on changes to the Paradise Circus Queensway junctions with Broad Street, Parade/Sand Pits and Summer Row.

The closure began on Monday with buses on routes 82, 83, 87 and 89 diverted via Newhall Street and Newhall Hill.

Meanwhile, from Saturday, there will be temporary closures at Summer Row.

There will be restricted access for all vehicles between Lionel Street and Great Charles Street and all parking will be suspended.

Parade/Sand Pits will be closed to traffic leaving the city from January 17.

Overnight closures will also be in place in Broad Street, Bridge Street and Holliday Street. Leader of Birmingham City Council Sir Albert Bore has welcomed the start of work, saying: "Birmingham is building a growing reputation as the country's leading international business and tourist destination outside London.

"This will be further boosted in 2015 when we all start to benefit from the many significant improvements to the city's infrastructure together with the commencement of a number of important projects. Paradise is, perhaps, the most strategically important of these.

"Not only will it attract new businesses and jobs, it will draw new visitors, open up the city and give our historic buildings the high quality setting they deserve – and Birmingham City Council is proud to be an integral part of it."

It comes as work continues on a £750m transformation of Birmingham New Street station including the new shopping centre – Grand Central which will feature a huge 250,000 sq ft John Lewis store – the largest outside of London.

A list of the forthcoming changes are as follows

JANUARY 10 Summer Row temporary closures – restrictions to all vehicles between Lionel Street and Great Charles Street. Diversion route will be in place and signed.

JANUARY 10 Parking restrictions – all parking on Summer Row will be suspended.

JANUARY 17 Diversions for traffic travelling out of the city – Parade/Sand Pits will be closed outbound to all vehicles. Diversions via Cambridge Street. Traffic into city will be open to all vehicles with reduced lanes.

JANUARY 17 Broad Street/Bridge Street/Holliday Street - temporary overnight traffic closures with diversions. Broad Street lane restrictions into city from Bridge Street.

JANUARY 31 Broad Street restrictions and diversions for traffic into the city.

Access on Broad Street will be restricted from Bridge Street to buses and Hackney Carriages only for traffic into city.

Diversion routes will be in place and signed.

The transformation of Paradise Circus covering 17 acres of land between Centenary Square and Chamberlain Square)

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

THEY'RE coming to a street near you. It's election year and pretty soon MPs, candidates, activists and hangers-on are going to canvas you.

It sounds a bit sinister, like some form of guerilla art. But for some reason it just seems like the right thing for any aspiring politician to do – to connect with the electorate.

It all seems a bit unfair to me because they'll descend with no prior notice or appointment and might well interrupt dinner or at a crucial moment in the Breaking Bad box set.

Even so, if they do come along, use this chance to grill them because it's been half a decade since we had a General Election and it's about time they were properly put on the spot by the people they serve.

I'm looking forward to May because after that we'll hopefully have a government that's actually getting on with the business of governing, rather than just going through the motions for the next few months while parties try to curry favour with an ever-more-weary electorate.

Parliament has run out of things to do. This is because of a little thing known as the Fixed Term Parliament Act which effectively sets the date for a General Election at exactly five years since the last one.

Distance

In order to create a 'strong and stable' coalition with the Liberal Democrats, David Cameron dispensed with the Prime Minister's right to decide when the time was right to go to the country.

But the Tories and Lib Dems have exhausted the things they can agree on and are now trying to distance themselves from each other.

The Lib Dems are effectively finished around these parts. In the May 2014 council elections the party found candidates to stand in a mere 27 per cent of wards.

David Cameron likes to refer to this as the most important election in a generation. He may have a point, beyond his own survival. Although I'd suggest it goes further than that.

This is not the sweeping change from one party to the other that we saw in 1997 when Tony Blair took charge. Rather, what we're dealing with here is a re-hash of 2010 when the country delivered a hung Parliament. Back then it was compared with the election of 1974.

But with the uncertainty that created, Harold Wilson went back to the country again before the year was out and was rewarded with a majority of three. The Fixed Term Parliament Act stops that.

We get one shot at saying who we want as our MP for the next half a decade. Before that, it's up to them to bombard us again and again with leaflets, promises and scare tactics.

BLINDS
SANDWELL- www.blind-deals.co.uk
BEST DEAL! £98
3 child safe verticals
one per household offer
NO OBLIGATION HOME QUOTE
ALL PRICES INCLUDE FREE MEASURE & FITTING
HUGE CHOICE OF POPULAR FABRICS & GENEROUS SIZE RESTRICTIONS
CALL FREE
contact your local advisor to see our fabric range & other available deals
0800 0214266

Concept BLINDS
UP TO 50% OFF ALL BLINDS
Vertical & Roller Blinds
New season fabrics now available
Child Safety Features Fitted Free of Charge
5 YEAR GUARANTEE
Also available
• Romans • Pleated
• Conservatory Roof Blinds
• Wood Venetians
• Venetian Blinds
• Curved Tracks for Bay Windows
FREE Fitting on all blinds
FREEPHONE
0800 5875279
Open Seven Days a Week
0121 429 3169
FREE Home Quote. FAST Delivery

COMPLETE KITCHENS AND BATHROOMS
Quality Kitchens and Bathrooms, Designed, Supplied & Installed.
Our service includes:
Plumbing, Tiling, Electrics, Plastering, Decorating
A COMPLETE service from initial design through to completion with many references available.
ALL WORK GUARANTEED
Discounts For Large Projects
Call: 0121 429 1586 or 07415 787526
Ask For Chris
Further Details Available At:
candnpropertysolutions.co.uk
C&N Property Solutions

EASYVAPOUR
Sandwell's Finest Vape
We stock a wide range of electronic cigarettes, mods & e-liquids
• NO FLAME • NO ASH • NO TAR
• NO ODOUR • JUST VAPOUR
100 Three Shire Oak Road, Smethwick B67 5BT
0121 429 6526
www.easyvapour4u.com

Tree dream comes true for area

I HAD been approached by Jessica from The Flower Shop in Stone Cross who asked if anything could be done to get a Christmas Tree back into the community after many years of being without one.

It was quite a challenge with only five weeks to accomplish this request but my sincere thanks to Hateley Cross members for their very generous donations, to the Cabinet Member for Highway's Cllr Maria Crompton who donated the tree, and to West Bromwich Town Lead Cllr David Hosell who found the balance of the funding. I must also place on record our amazing officers Imran and Liz, and Steve Robinson and his men who worked so hard in the background to ensure that everyone, from residents, traders and visitors would see our tree standing tall and proud.

It was a very emotional evening with lots of people joining us for the "switch on" but I must thank a very special young lady named Jodie who together with Imram did the countdown to switch the lights on. Jodie is an inspiration to us all a very brave lass.

CLLR PAT DAVIES, Hateley Heath

Tories were not listening

I WAS interested to read the report by Daniel Wainwright. It would appear that in a poll by Lord Ashcroft the Conservative Party are in Third Place in the Dudley North Seat.

I know only too well that many Conservatives in Warley in particular and others in Sandwell as a whole have been trying to warn Lord Ashcroft about this sort of problem arising throughout the West Midlands. But alas neither Lord Ashcroft nor Conservative Central Office are listening.

They prefer to listen to the ranting of their Midland Regional Office than take note of the voices of those who have both lived and worked in the region for many years. Indeed some have fought in some very strong Labour controlled areas, fighting the Conservative cause.

E JOHNSON
Smethwick

Gratitude to ex-leader Bernard, 80

I WAS recently informed of the death of a regular contributor to your letter page. He had many items published in your newspaper firstly from his previous home in Walsall then latterly from his home at Port Erin, Isle of Man.

Bernard Hanson took over as full-time youth leader at Wednesbury Youth Centre in 1966 and held the post for over 25 years until his retirement.

His dedication to the young people of Wednesbury was immense, his views often putting him in conflict with his superiors when he felt that the needs of the young where not being represented.

I, along with many, owe him a debt of gratitude for his guidance and support during our formative years. He ensured that WYC was a place where the young could enjoy themselves without being judged. He died from a heart attack, aged 80 years old.

F GLOVER, Former member and deputy youth leader, Wednesbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Sandwell.chronicle @expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Football is ruined by antics of cheats

I MUST admit I am getting rather tired of the carping that goes on from those involved in professional football today.

Yes, the players and managers that collectively are known as the 'Premier Division'

I wonder if they are so arrogant or plain stupid enough not to see that it is their cheating that helps make the referee's job so much more difficult for them to be uniformly consistent.

Yes referees do make mistakes and they more often than not, are the first to know it. We have managers who at times perform like children in a primary school playground, pushing and poking each other and no doubt a few names being called. I have written to FIFA, UEFA and The FA to ask what they intend to do about this cheating cancer that is spreading through football.

In all three cases I have to report that their response was deafening in its silence. We can only conclude that all three bodies condone the cheats. Whilst the PFA are equally silent on these so called professionals.

Meanwhile the working man will just have to pay up and put up or perhaps say enough is enough and walk away. Go and watch the lads on the local park. That is until those that are there to run the game start thinking more of the game than their own kudos.

E J JOHNSON
Smethwick

Sceptism over terror law bid

THERESA May is pressing ahead in her attempts to bring in further legislation concerning persons suspected to be terrorists.

These laws will also concern those who promote terrorism in its many forms. However, am I being naive in asking if Mrs May has obtained or sought approval from our EU masters?

And has the UK Home Secretary gone out and looked for approval from the English judiciary who administer the Human Rights Act? Or will the new laws, like earlier attempts, fall at the first legal challenge?

A Hughes, Oldbury

OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW AT
CASH 4 CLOTHES
GET INSTANT CASH
FOR ALL YOUR OLD CLOTHES AND RAGS
Free Collection
WE BUY ASIAN CLOTHES
10 KILOS 1 BLACK BAG £5.00 OR MORE
We Buy: Clothing, Shoes, Handbags, Bedding
No Workwear • No Dirty or Damaged Clothes
We also take Washing Machines, Fridges and any other surplus appliances
07808 085919
www.oberonrecycling.co.uk Email: info@oberonrecycling.co.uk
275 Bristnall Hall Road, Oldbury B68 9NF (Queens Head, Opp Garage)
Shop: 145 Lunt Road, Bilston, WV14 7AJ

Nuisance motorists caught by camera car

AN initiative designed to clamp down on illegal parking in Sandwell has been hailed a success by council bosses.

To date, the council's CCTV 'camera car', which first hit the streets of the borough in October, has copped around 600 vehicles carelessly parking illegally. The car is constantly on the look out for nuisance parking.

by Charlie Benton

The car was brought in as part of a focus on road safety around the borough's 120 schools.

In particular those parked illegally at bus stops, red routes, pedestrian crossings and on zig-zag lines are under scrutiny.

Drivers caught by the car face a hefty fine of £70.

Highways chief Councillor Maria Crompton said the initiative was part of a crackdown in response to complaints from residents. She said: "Our top priority is protecting children's safety. We know most motorists do take care and park legally – but we need to get the message through to the minority who don't.

"Please, mums, dads, grandparents, carers, anyone picking a child up from school – the zig-zags are there for a reason.

"We are also using CCTV to support parking enforcement by monitoring and recording breaches of other traffic regulation orders that put pedestrian safety at risk."

The hi-tech car uses CCTV technology known as automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) which takes ultra-clear snapshots of offending vehicles.

Council leader Darren Cooper said the scheme, which has cost around £45,000, was important to help reduce illegal parking and improve safety around schools.

Branching out to help with £6,000

Ray Brothwood, left and John McHugh from the Tipton Civic Society celebrate raising £6,000 with the Tree of Light

A HOST of good causes will benefit from £6,000 raised by the annual Tipton Tree of Light appeal. Hundreds of people sponsored a light in memory of friends and family they had lost.

They were displayed on the tree outside St Paul's Church in Owen Street. The names of loved ones were written on a memorial board underneath the tree when it was lit on November 28. Money raised by long-running tradition, organised by Tipton Civic Society will be donated to a variety of local charities.

Group spokesman John McHugh said more than £6,000 had been raised with a few remaining donations still come in. He added: "Over 1,000 names were recorded and donations exceeded last year's total. Donations came from all over the Black Country plus counties throughout the UK and as far away as Scotland and Holland." A social evening will be held at St Martin's and St Paul's at 7pm on February 17 to present cheques to the chosen charities.

AFFORDABLE WINDOWS & DOORS
Work you can trust
Put your Trust in Steve...Looking after Clients for 15 years
WINDOW PACKAGES NOW AVAILABLE
DOOR BARRELL CHANGES from £20
Victorian & Edwardian Conservatories AVAILABLE CALL NOW
www.wolverhamptonwindows.co.uk
07710 434223
01902 827879
GGF FENSA

CHRONICLE
CREATE YOUR UNIQUE PERSONALISED GIFT.
IF YOU APPEARED IN THIS WEEK'S CHRONICLE WHY NOT ORDER THE PICTURE AS A PHOTO, CANVAS PRINT, MUG, GLASS COASTER OR MOUSEMAT?
GO TO PHOTOSFORSALE.EXPRESSANDSTAR.COM
OR CALL (01902) 319444
(MONDAY TO FRIDAY,9AM TO 5PM)
Please note: Only selected prints available and copyright restrictions apply. Photos available to view and order online the next working day after publication. Allow 28 days for delivery.
Part of Express & Star Ltd
MNA Media

RYDALE
CELEBRATING OVER 29 YEARS
WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES, ORANGERIES, PORCHES, FASCIAS & SOFFIT BOARDS SUPPLIED & FITTED TO ALL AREAS ACROSS THE MIDLANDS
You can be sure you have made the right decision!
WINDOW, CONSERVATORY, PORCH, FASCIA & SOFFIT NEWS
How has Rydale built up an excellent reputation?
It's simple customers' satisfaction and quality. The quality of Rydale's product, the quality of all Rydale personnel and the unbeatable service given to the public is second to none. No wonder Rydale has so many satisfied customers, just look at the facts. Every window and conservatory is custom made to the most rigorous quality standards you will find in the industry.No other company in the area has more experience and know how than Rydale, that's why we have been in business for more than 29 years. Rydale Windows security features make our windows super safe. We have a wide range of products on display at our purpose built showrooms and factories situated in Long Lane, Halesowen.
Our window and conservatory advisors are available in our showrooms weekdays from 9.00am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9.00am to 4.00pm. At Rydale we feel that it is very important to see products on display before you make your final decision to purchase.
We invite you to come into our showrooms to view all our products available, the showrooms are here for you the customer. At Rydale we do not take any deposits or stage payments, you only pay when the installation has been completed. Rydale has been a trusted brand in our area for over 29 years. If we give you a guarantee we will always be here to honour it.
Can that be said of any other company in the area? Rydale also offer a Supply Only service on all products including free delivery.
ULTIMATE SECURITY GUARANTEE
Rydale take security very seriously
Guaranteed high security on all products
Full details on request
Winter Sale NOW ON
Finance Available
At Rydale we care about the customer, spend your money wisely
Visit one of the largest conservatory and window showrooms in the UK
Massive Discounts
on all orders placed now for January installation
Repair Service available
FREEPHONE 0800 917 6060
OPEN WEEKDAYS 9 AM TO 5.30 PM, SATURDAY 9 AM TO 4 PM, SUNDAY CLOSED
Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen, B62 9LS
www.rydalewindows.co.uk
RYDALE 10 YEAR GUARANTEE

Brave Jodie, 14, makes it home for Christmas

A BRAVE teenager enjoyed Christmas at home with her family as she continued to fight a rare cancer that resulted in her having her leg amputated.

Jodie Millard, 14, from Dunkirk Avenue, West Bromwich, has to spend four-day periods at Birmingham Children's Hospital while receiving chemotherapy for the osteosarcoma, which resulted in her having her right leg amputated on August 14.

However, the teenager's mother Leasa said the hospital had planned a rota that enabled her daughter to be at home for Christmas Day and she enjoyed a roast beef lunch and playing games with her family.

"I feel great to be home at Christmas because I get to spend all my time with my family. Even though I was in hospital, I was still able to see my family, but it is a better environment to be at home," Jodie said.

Jodie Millard, 14, seen with Mom Leasa, Dad Mark and brother Jordan

Prosthetic

Mrs Millard said her daughter was learning to walk on a prosthetic leg supplied by the NHS, but the periods when she could use the limb were restricted because when she was receiving chemotherapy, her stump would swell up making it difficult to use the prosthetic and she would have to use a wheelchair instead.

She added Jodie was also set to receive a new electric wheelchair at the end of this month which would make it easier for her to get around while she learned to use the prosthetic, which could take two years and involved hill climbing and learning how to walk up and down steps.

"We were preparing ourselves for spending Christmas in hospital, but the hospital has been fantastic with the way it has worked the rota with the chemotherapy and the beds," Mrs Millard added. She also praised her son Jordan, 17, for the way he had handled his sister's condition and the support he had given her, while also completing his GCSEs.

The family is also in the process of setting up the Jodie Lou Foundation charity, which aims to raise money to pay for teenagers who have had limbs amputated due to cancer to be fitted with state-of-the-art prosthetics not available on the NHS, which would be similar to the new limbs received by soldiers who have lost legs in blasts.

However, they need to raise £5,000 before they can register the foundation as a charity and are appealing to the public for donations.

Her school, the George Salter Academy, has been supportive in organising fundraising activities, while she has also received help from family and friends.

The teenager was diagnosed with osteosarcoma following a chance trampolining accident at school when she banged her leg. The doctor initially gave her some gel to rub on her aching knee injury, suspecting that she had twisted or torn a ligament. But eight weeks later Jodie was still in pain, and she was sent for an x-ray which is when the cancer was discovered.

After a bout of chemotherapy doctors eventually decided that she would have to have her right leg amputated and she had her operation on August 14.

As part of the fundraising drive people can buy keyrings for £5 plus postage and packaging. Anyone wanting to find out more can search The Jodie Lou Foundation on Facebook, or see @thejodieloufou1 on Twitter.

Supafit Motorists Centre
Call Steve now on 0121 502 2870
Laser Wheel Alignment from £20
SERVICING FROM £49.95
CAMBELTS, CLUTCHES, TYRES, EXHAUSTS, BRAKES, MOT REPAIRS
Front Brake Pads fitted from £39.95
Exhausts fitted from £35.95
Clutches fitted from £120
Timing Belts fitted from £110
Diagnostics from £20
Tracking from £20
Prices all subject to VAT
SPECIAL OFFER 10% OFF WITH THIS VOUCHER
Member of the Good Garage Scheme
www.supafitmotoristcentre.co.uk
Unit 1 Bridge Street Industrial Estate, Bridge Street, Wednesbury WS10 0AW

Clocking on for bright future at town museum

IT STOOD at the heart of a busy transport interchange for decades and was seen by hundreds upon hundreds of commuters each day.

Now the historic Cradley Heath clock is to be restored and preserved by volunteers at a museum in the Black Country.

The four-sided clock is more than 16 ft tall but has had to move to make way for the £1.9 million overhaul of the bus station.

Aston Manor Road Transport Museum in Aldridge was approached by Centro over whether they would like to take the landmark which is believed to date back to 1983.

Keen volunteers will now set about repairing one of the damaged clock faces and look to put it up outside their base in Shenstone Drive or modify it to be based inside.

Chairman Martin Fisher said: "They didn't want it to be just chucked away and so it was offered to us and we accepted. There are lots of people that have seen that, in the context of going catching the bus and seeing that clock. It is the whole essence of the transport museum, it is not just the vehicles. It is all the things associated with these vehicles."

Walsall councillor Richard Worrall, a member of Centro, approached the museum if they wanted to take the clock. He said: "I was asked if I knew anyone, and I thought that is a great place to relocate it. Today's equipment is tomorrow's history."

New passenger information and improved waiting areas are being created at the Cradley Heath interchange, next to the town's railway station. The work is being paid for through the Better Bus Area Fund, a £10 million pot to improve public transport in Brierley Hill, around Merry Hill shopping centre and Cradley Heath."

Martin Fisher, seen with the clock

The clock in its former position

Flybe destination takes off

AIRLINE Flybe, the biggest operator at Birmingham Airport, is adding another regular flight to France to its summertime schedule.

It will be taking passengers to and from the fashionable beach resort of Deauville, on the northwest coast, three times a week between June and September. It is the third new French route added to Flybe's 2015 summer schedule.

The three times a week service will operate on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays between June 22 and September 26. One way fares from £24.99 including taxes and charges are available for booking now at www.flybe.com

Deauville is an internationally renowned beach resort known as the Parisian Riviera. It is famous particularly for its sandy beaches, grand hotels and casinos, golf courses and for hosting prestigious horse racing events, polo matches and the annual Deauville American Film Festival.

ADVERTISEMENT

Denture problem? No problem!

Denture Clinic

Our solutions are right here on your doorstep

Infectious laughter, happy moments and "me" time meet Denture Clinic implant patients John and Gillian. Both were prescribed implant retained over-dentures

"We don't just prescribe dentures, we transform looks, recover lost smiles and often play a part in transforming lives," says founder and principal of the Denture Clinic.

By any measure, it's a big statement, but his practice is well placed to make such claims with some 3,500 patients on the books and an ever-growing portfolio of happy clinical outcomes.

The clinic's prosthetics, prescribed and crafted on premises at his multi-disciplined dental practice in Dudley have found satisfied patients from as far away as Spain and Portugal.

Others wishing to resolve long-term denture issues have travelled from Dorset, the Isle of Anglesey, the Isle of Skye and London.

Over the last decade the Denture Clinic, based in North Street, has encountered some heart-rending accounts of how ill-fitting teeth have dislocated lives "but thankfully it has never failed to deliver a successful clinical solution," says principal Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353.

"Prosthetics have been the butt of every comedian's joke, but things are changing. There's no reason for anyone to put up with uncomfortable and unsightly dentures any more and talking about them is getting easier.

"It wasn't that long ago that an amalgamation between glamour and dentures was unheard of, but these unlikely descriptive bedfellows are now increasingly being fused together at our clinics in Dudley, Wolverhampton, Kidderminster and Dorridge," adds Steven.

Youthful, engaging smile

Evangelical about what new-generation denture prescriptions can achieve, Steven adds: "Dentures have traditionally never been associated with cosmetic makeovers, but our high-quality prosthetics have quite literally taken years off some of our patients, reshaping sunken cheeks and pinched lips."

The palette of solutions to deliver a more youthful, engaging smile has never been so great, with traditional, handmade-on-the-premises prosthetics; suction diaphragm dentures; and implant-retained over-dentures.

"We have often been privileged to transform looks – and lives – providing teeth that not only are aesthetically pleasing and hugely functional, but successfully support facial structures just like real teeth.

"Can dentures ever be glamorous? Emphatically, yes," he says.

Strident advances in technology, improved materials and revised clinical procedures are all helping to "drive the denture revolution forward and it's easy to add a real sense of natural-looking glamour to a clinical outcomes," he says.

By far the most sustainable and predictable results are found in implant-retained over-dentures, where permanently fixed implanted 'studs' in the jaw secure the prosthetic.

"For- those with the right bone density, over-dentures guarantee stability," adds Steven.

Implants, however, are not suitable for all and a cutting-edge suction valve device that holds prosthetics in position is another popular option.

With the Ultra Suction system a clever diaphragm principle, triggered by bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

"The device can be mounted on upper or lower teeth and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can result in improved speech and taste.

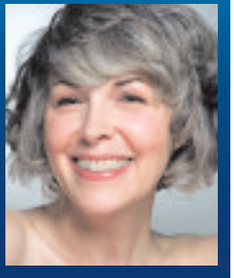
Fastidious about quality

"For the right patient it can deliver excellent denture retainer qualities without the invasive procedures required for implant work, he adds."

Quality, handcrafted traditional dentures remain hugely popular. "Our on-premises manufacturing allows us to be fastidious about quality. We use only the best of materials and we have mature, skilled team of technicians that supports us.

"The possibilities with good looking, functional prosthetics still continue to surprise us," says Steven.

Solutions at a glance


Traditional dentures

Implant dentures

Suction solution

• Suction dentures • Complete dentures • Partial dentures • Copy dentures • Implant-retained dentures • Repairs service • Relines • Soft linings

For appointments at all clinics call 0800 0285185

The Denture Clinic
5 North Street, Dudley,
West Midlands, DY2 7DT

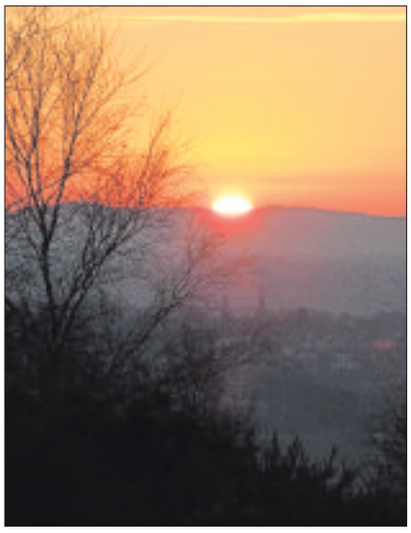
Offroad Parking
Wheelchair Friendly
Level Access

Other clinics located at:
Wolverhampton, Kidderminster and Solihull

www.denture-clinic.co.uk email: info@denture-clinic.co.uk

Denture Clinic

Lovely view shines through like Beacon



The picture of the sunset as seen at Barr Beacon, taken by Ruth Duncombe on her new compact camera

WHEN Ruth Duncombe and her husband were taking a post-Christmas walk up Barr Beacon, she managed to catch one of the last beautiful sunsets of the year on camera.

Mrs Duncombe, from Pheasey, Great Barr, snapped the image on her brand new compact camera she got as a Christmas present. The 53-year-old learning support co-ordinator found a passion for photography after going on walks with her husband.

She said: "Me and my husband go out for walks regularly and I always take my camera with me. It has never been anything serious for me, I just enjoy taking photos.

"We decided to go for a walk up Barr Beacon late afternoon on December 29 as the weather was so beautiful. We started walking around three o'clock and when we reached the top at four o'clock we witnessed this really beautiful sunset.

"I love to take photos of flowers and the weather, so this was the perfect opportunity."

Road safety team views sought as axe looms

A CONSULTATION has been launched over plans to axe a team of 20 staff responsible for teaching schoolchildren across Sandwell about road safety.

The part-time workers – 19 women and one man – visit schools around the borough to teach youngsters how to cross the road safely.

But Sandwell Council is proposing to get rid of the team – and replace them with computer programmes – as part of wider plans to save £2 million.

As well as holding lessons in the classroom, the team take children out of the school to demonstrate how to cross the road. The council is talking to schools, parents and trade unions to get their views on the proposals before making a final decision later this year.

Cabinet member for highways and environment Councillor Maria Crompton said: "We are consulting with schools, parents and trade unions on the proposal and will take a final decision in the summer.

"In the meantime we will carry on with the existing service for the rest of the academic year. From the responses we have had so far people seem to prefer interactive technology, which is what the majority of councils are using."

by Heather Large

The council said the new computer system was considered to be a more effective way of teaching youngsters and was used by other councils around the country. "The system is considered to teach children quicker with a playful approach to learning," said Councillor Crompton.

The proposals have come under fire from union bosses. Mohammed Khalik, GMB Regional organiser, said: "GMB considers that not enough priority has been given to exploring alternatives to secure this important frontline service."

WINTER SALE WINTER SALE

THIS SATURDAY IS DOUBLE DISCOUNT DAY

HORNBY
GRAHAM FARISH
DAPOL

MODEL TRAINS 'N' and '00' LOCOS SELECTED MODELS DURING SALE 20% OFF LIST THIS SATURDAY WE TAKE A FURTHER 20% OFF
THIS SATURDAY NEARLY 40% OFF LIST PRICE
(One per customer)

Visit our web site www.aoakes.co.uk for Model Trains

LADIES ONESIES THIS SATURDAY £10.99

LADIES DRESSING GOWNS UP TO 2XL
LADIES THERMAL UNDERWEAR WARM NIGHTIES UP TO 24/26
ALL DOUBLE DISCOUNT THIS SATURDAY

Mens up to 14
Ladies up to 8
Slippers selected styles
TAKE £5 OFF SATURDAY

Mens T Shirts 2XL to 6XL ALL REDUCED ON SATURDAY BY £4 & £6

SCALEXTRIC MODEL MOTOR RACING CARS
Cars Selected Models
DOUBLE DISCOUNT NEARLY 40% OFF LIST PRICE THIS SATURDAY

KING SIZE QUILT COVERS AND PILLOW CASES
NORMALLY £25.99
THIS SATURDAY £11.00

KING SIZE FLANNELETTE SHEET SETS
(2 SHEETS AND PILLOW CASES)
THIS SATURDAY £18.99

MENS FLEECES 2XL TO 6XL
THIS SATURDAY FROM £20.99
MENS CORD TROUSERS 44 TO 54 WAIST
THIS SATURDAY TO CLEAR £13.99

A.OAKES OF VICARAGE ROAD FAMILY STORE
174/180 VICARAGE ROAD, OLDBURY, B68 9JB
0121 552 1684
Mon-Sat 9.00am to 5.30pm,
Wed 9.00am to 12.30pm
CUSTOMER CAR PARK

Save £s.
Lose pounds.

2 months free
on a fitness or swim membership.

Fitness membership includes:
- Results guaranteed or your money back
- 3 tailor-made 1-on-1 gym sessions
- 1 FREE small group training session
- Unlimited use of the gym
- Swimming
- Workout classes
- Sauna and steam

WEST BROMWICH LEISURE CENTRE
Moor Street, West Bromwich B70 7AZ
0121 580 6430
enquiries@westbromwichlc.co.uk
www.westbromwichlc.co.uk

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
places for people

Built and operated by Places for People Leisure Ltd in partnership with Sandwell Council.
When paying in advance for one year. Terms and conditions apply.

Hurt knighted as host of stars get their accolades

THE creators of the spectacular sea of poppies that engulfed the Tower of London are among those to receive awards in the New Year Honours.

Paul Cummins and Tom Piper have both been given MBEs in recognition of the poppy exhibition, which saw almost five million people flock to the Tower of London in the run-up to Remembrance Sunday.

TV presenter and Childline founder Esther Rantzen has been made a dame, while actor John Hurt got a knighthood.

Knighthood – John Hurt

Hurt, aged 74, was knighted after a career lasting more than 50 years taking in roles in the Elephant Man, Doctor Who and Harry Potter. Other prominent figures honoured this year include actresses Kristin Scott Thomas and Emily Watson, comedian Meera Syal – originally from Essington – and novelist Ali Smith.

Designer Mary Quant, 80, who is widely credited with popularising the miniskirt, has been made a dame, along with actress Joan Collins.

The 81 year old, a devoted monarchist, said she was 'deeply honoured'. She said: "It is humbling to receive this level of recognition from my Queen and country, and I am thrilled and truly grateful."

Hillsborough campaigners Margaret Aspinall and Trevor Hicks are also among those recognised. The pair, of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, have been awarded CBEs in recognition of their tireless campaigning on behalf of those bereaved by the disaster in 1989. Gavin and Stacey stars James Corden and Sheridan Smith have been given OBEs.

Baggies hero Batson gives borough a boost with OBE

YEARS of dedication and hard work around the Black Country have been rewarded in the Queen's New Year Honours. West Bromwich Albion legend Brendon Batson joins charity workers and council staff who have been honoured in this year's list.

by Dominic Bareham

The former Baggies defender was awarded an OBE for services to football. Batson, who has already been awarded an MBE, said he was humbled by the award.

"I found out a few months ago after I received a letter telling me I had been nominated, then I heard nothing for months until now, when people suddenly start asking me how it feels," he said.

"I have been included in the New Year honours list before when I received my MBE, but I am most definitely not blasé about it."

When Jessica Gripton carried the Olympic torch through West Bromwich in 2012, she said it was one of the highlights of her life. But now the experience could be surpassed as she receives the British Empire Medal for services to sport.

Mrs Gripton, aged 83, is still secretary at Old Hill Tennis Club after more than 30 years of organising matches. The mother-of-three and grandmother-of-six was also president and secretary at Halesowen Swimming Club and Haden Hill Swimming Club.

A former midwife at City Hospital in Birmingham, she said: "I can't believe it. It's incredible."

Stuart Griffiths, chief executive of Birmingham Hippodrome, received an OBE for services to the arts in Birmingham.

He said: "I'm delighted with the news and it's a great honour to be recognised in this way. It's really a reflection of the hard work and dedication of the whole team here at Birmingham Hippodrome."

Baggies legend Brendan Batson, OBE

British Empire Medal – Jessica Gripton, aged 83

Are you a member of a local voluntary group?

Do you have a good news story?

Do you need to promote an event for a charity or a local good cause?

The Sandwell Chronicle needs local news stories for your local paper for you the local reader.

Please call the chronicle team on 01902 319 588

FreeAds

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

*Advertise any item ***FREE*** up to the value of **£250,** simply fill out the details below or book online at ***www.expressandstar.com/bookanad***

ADVERT DETAILS - (ONE WORD PER BOX, 12 WORDS IN TOTAL)

ADVERT 1

ADVERT 2

Name: _____ Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel No: _____

Please send to: ClassifiedAds, Express & Star, 51-53 Queen St, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES.

IT'S ABSOLUTELY FREE

*Private advertisers only, no guns, pets, or livestock. Limited time only
Free adverts are published within 7 days of receipt, in-paper and online and are limited to 3 lines maximum

Buy Local, **Sell** Local
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

Cold snap sees 999 calls soar

CALLS to the West Midlands Ambulance Service soared as the cold snap hit recently.

Demand rose sharply across the region, with calls from the Black Country up by more than 20 per cent on Friday and Saturday of the Christmas weekend compared to last year's festive period.

A total of 2,204 calls for help came from the Black Country between Friday and Sunday.

The icy conditions over the weekend are thought to be the main reason for the spike in calls, with temperatures tumbling below freezing in some parts.

It comes at a time when the ambulance service is struggling to cope with the level of demand. It experienced the busiest day in its history earlier this month.

Chief executive Anthony Marsh, said: "I would like to thank my staff for the astonishing effort they have put in, not only over the last few days, but over the last few weeks."

MP Winnick urges Blair to offer 'a period of silence'

TONY Blair should offer a 'period of silence' if he really wants Labour to win the General Election, one of the party's longest serving MPs, Walsall North's David Winnick, has said.

Mr Winnick, who famously clashed with the former Prime Minister over his plans for 90-day detention without trial for terror suspects, said Mr Blair should consider not speaking out on the party's chances of a victory in May.

The MP, who has represented his constituency since 1979, said he respected Mr Blair for having led Labour to three General Election victories.

Mr Blair gave an interview in which he said the next election, with Labour led by Ed Miliband, could be one 'in which a traditional left-wing party competes with a traditional right-wing party, with the traditional result'.

Asked if he meant a Tory win, Mr Blair replied: 'Yes, that is what happens'.

He said the Labour party would succeed best 'when it is in the centre ground' and stressed the importance of 'not alienating large parts of business'.

Beginning

The former premier's comments overshadowed Mr Miliband's New Year message to the electorate, in which he promised a recovery which 'reaches your kitchen table' and urged the country to choose a 'new beginning' in 2015.

Mr Winnick said: "When Tony Blair spoke at his last Labour conference as leader he said he would help the party however he could. In 1945 the then chairman of the Labour party Harold Laski made remarks that the then leader Clement Attlee found most unhelpful.

"The point Mr Attlee made then was 'a period of silence on your part would be welcome'.

"I think it would be useful for Mr Blair, for whom I have a great deal of respect, to bear this in mind."

Mr Blair said he expects a Labour victory in the election. The former prime minister claimed his comments in which he suggested a party fighting on a "traditional left-wing" platform would lose to the Tories had been 'misinterpreted'. Mr Blair said: "I fully support Ed and my party and expect a Labour victory in the election."

Firms sign up to create jobs

MORE than 20 firms have signed up to a £1million scheme to create jobs for up to 4,000 young people in Sandwell.

The Sandwell Council scheme will guarantee paid work or training for at least six months for young people.

So far 21 firms have joined the campaign, largely aimed those not in employment, education or training. They include West Bromwich based firms Vector Print and East End Foods.

Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "Any young person who wants a job will get one.We want to give them a helping hand "

Under the scheme, called the Sandwell Guarantee, employers can offer jobs, apprenticeships, or internships, but they must be paid and new, not existing.

The council will split the cost of wages 50/50 for up to one year.

Forces charity shops appeal for donations

Bethany Rollins and Michelle Haynes appeal for donations

A MILITARY bereavement charity, Forces Support is appealing for new donations. The West Midlands charity, which has a shop in Carters Green, West Bromwich is asking people having a clear-out after Christmas, or struggling to know what to do with unwanted Christmas presents to get in touch.

Shop manager Beth Rollins, said: "The past few months in our West Bromwich shop have been strangely quiet.

"Normally around this time of year we have donations flooding in due to people having clear-outs before and after Christmas but this year it just has not happened.

"We have been really busy with customers coming in and buying items from the shops which is great but we are slowly running low on donations.

"We accept anything and everything in our shops, any donations are always welcome and right now we really need people to come forward with them.

The charity launched back in 2010, raising money through their shops and fundraisers to provide general maintenance work to homes of bereaving families.

UK gets its 100th micro-pub set up

THE number of micro-pubs in the UK doubled during 2014.

The 100th to open was The Lanes in Dover, Kent, on December 19.

The first micro-pub – a small free house mainly serving cask ale which shuns electronic entertainment – opened in Herne, Kent in 2005. Many have opened since in former retail units.

In the Black Country, Hail to the Ale, Pendeford Avenue, Wolverhampton was opened in September 2013 by Gary and Angela Morton, who own Morton Brewery, Essington, in a former Post Office, and Weavers Rail House in Comberton Hill, Kidderminster, has been going since June that year in an old Polish restaurant.

In Lichfield, The Whippet Inn opened in a former clothes shop in Tamworth Street in April this year.

They are listed on the Micro-pub Association's website.

the winter sale
EXTRA DISCOUNTS OFF ALL SALE PRICES
ENDS THIS SUNDAY 5PM

It's your last chance to take advantage of the extra discounts off all sale prices throughout the stores.

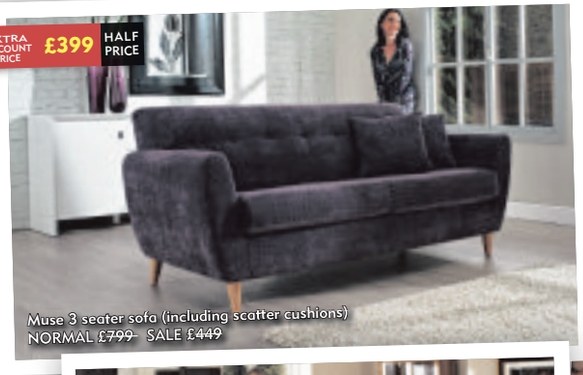
With huge reductions on every single item, there's never been a better time to save on furniture, carpets, beds, homewares and much more.

Including all the famous brand names.

Buy now and pay nothing until summer - not even a deposit – interest free.

Final few days - This offer ends Sunday 5pm.

Alberta leather 3 seater sofa
NORMAL £1399 SALE £899
EXTRA DISCOUNT PRICE £799 SAVE £600



EXTRA DISCOUNT PRICE £399 HALF PRICE
Muse 3 seater sofa (including scatter cushions)
NORMAL £799 SALE £449

EXTRA DISCOUNT PRICE £449 SAVE £430
Hamilton extending table and 4 chairs
NORMAL £879 SALE £499

VISIT OUR EXTENSIVE RANGE OF Carpets, Flooring & Rugs
EXTRA DISCOUNT PRICE £4.95m² LESS THAN HALF PRICE
Columbia luxury stain resistant carpet - choice of 20 colours
NORMAL £12.95m² SALE £5.95m²

Parker Knoll

LOW SALE PRICES. PAY NOTHING UNTIL SUMMER. NO DEPOSIT. INTEREST FREE.

Cousins
a true family business

Open 7 days a week
Late Nights: Tuesday & Thursday until 8pm

Birmingham
Warwick Road,
Tyseley. B11 2EW.
T: 0121 765 3300

Dudley
Hall Street
DY2 8NW.
T: 01384 451500

Manchester
A57, Regent Rd,
Salford. M5 4EA.
T: 0161 875 4070

www.cousinsfurniture.co.uk

PRICE PROMISE Our price promise to you, we won't be beaten on price! *

celebrating 29 years

• Free parking
• Instore restaurant
• Large stocks
• Immediate delivery

TRUSTED MERCHANT 2014 feefo

0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

Deferred Interest Free Credit available on all orders over £500. Subject to status. All balances must be paid in June 2015 on the date specified at the time of purchase. Written details on request. Offer not available on clearance items, online offers and in-store concessions. Some items are subject to one per household and only available in limited colours, or the colours shown in this advert. Prices in this advert are valid until 11th January 2015 except where stated. See website for Price Promise details.

New year sale

Sandwell Adult and Family Learning Service

"Sale" prices end 16th January. Book and pay before then to receive your early bird discount

Welcome . . . . . to the Sandwell Adult and Family Learning Service Spring Programme. Whether you're considering studying to improve your career prospects, update your skills, or just want to learn for fun – we have a part-time course for you!

Our new spring 2015 course programme offers a wide range of part time courses for those aged 19+ at our sites across Sandwell starting in January 2015.

The following courses are FREE (subject to eligibility)

Venue Name	Course Title	Start Date	Finish Date	Day (s)	Times	Telephone	Early Enrolment
THIMBLEMILL LIBRARY	Family Reading Skills	12/01/2015	23/03/2015	Monday	16:00 to 17:00	0121 555 6255	RON DAVIS CENTRE
RON DAVIS CENTRE	Get on the Right Track	06/01/2015	16/01/2015	Tues, Thurs, Fri	FAST TRACK (3 afternoons)	0121 555 6255	RON DAVIS CENTRE
RON DAVIS CENTRE	Step Into GCSE English	25/02/2015	25/06/2015	Wednesday ,Thursday	9:30 to 12:30 (both days)	0121 555 6255	RON DAVIS CENTRE
WEDNESBURY LIBRARY	Family Textiles	19/01/2015	02/03/2015	Monday	15:45 to 16:45	0121 557 0837	TIPTON COLLEGE
SINGLEPOINT	Stepping Stones : Through the Gateway	21/01/2015	11/02/2015	Wednesday	9:30 to 12:30	0121 557 0837	TIPTON COLLEGE
TIPTON COLLEGE	Everyday English	09/01/2015	17/07/2015	Friday	9:30 to 12:00	0121 557 0837	TIPTON COLLEGE
SANT NIRANKARI BHAVAN	Tabla-Asian Family Music	18/01/2015	29/03/2015	Sunday	9:30 to 11:00	0121 557 0837	TIPTON COLLEGE
TIPTON COLLEGE	Step Into GCSE Maths FASTRACK	23/02/2015	17/06/2015	Monday, Wednesday	13:00 to 15:30 (Mon) & 9:30 to 12:00 (Wed)	0121 557 0837	TIPTON COLLEGE
HATELEY HEATH FETC	Step Into GCSE Maths	22/01/2015	16/07/2015	Thursday	9:30 to 12:00	0121 556 7426	HATELEY HEATH
HATELEY HEATH FETC	Step into Skills for the Workplace	19/01/2015	24/03/2015	Monday & Tuesday	9:30 to 12:00 (Mon) &12:30 to 15:00 (Tue)	0121 556 7426	HATELEY HEATH

For an Early Bird Sale Fee on the following courses, enroll and pay at Tipton College (DY4 7NR) up to 16th January 2015. Telephone 0121 557 0837 for details

** Note: further fee concessions may be available subject to learner eligibility*

Venue Name	Course Title	Start Date	Finish Date	Day (s)	Times	Standard Fee* (from 12th Jan)	Early Bird Fee
WEDNESBURY LIBRARY	Sewing and Dressmaking	12/01/2015	23/03/2015	Monday	13:00 to 15:00	£70.00	£63.00
TIPTON COLLEGE	Text Processing for Business Professionals	20/01/2015	21/07/2015	Tuesday	13:00 to 15:00	£168.00	£151.00

For Early Bird Sale Fee on the following courses, enroll and pay at Ron Davis Centre (B66 3HH) up to 16th January 2015. Telephone 0121 555 6255 for details

** Note: further fee discounts may be available subject to learner eligibility*

Venue Name	Course Title	Start Date	Finish Date	Day (s)	Times	Standard Fee* (from12th Jan)	Early Bird Fee
HINDU RC	Asian Bollywood Music	12/01/2015	23/03/2015	Monday	13:00 to 14:30	£52.00	£46.00
LION FARM ACTION CENTRE	Painting & Drawing	12/01/2015	23/03/2015	Monday	16:00 to 18:00	£70.00	£63.00
RON DAVIS CENTRE	Asian Dress Making	13/01/2015	24/03/2015	Tuesday	18:00 to 20:00	£70.00	£63.00
BLACKHEATH LIBRARY	Flower Arranging	13/01/2015	24/03/2015	Tuesday	12:15 to 13:45	£52.00	£46.00
RON DAVIS CENTRE	Level 3 Award in Assessment	13/01/2015	09/06/2015	Tuesday	18:00 to 21:00	£250.00	£240.00
LANGLEY LODGE COMMUNITY CENTRE	Painting & Drawing	15/01/2015	26/03/2015	Thursday	10:00 to 12:00	£70.00	£63.00
RON DAVIS CENTRE	Painting & Drawing	15/01/2015	26/03/2015	Thursday	12:30 to 14;30	£70.00	£63.00
HINDU RC	Asian Vocal Music	16/01/2015	27/03/2015	Friday	13:30 to 15:00	£52.00	£46.00
RON DAVIS CENTRE	Sewing and Dressmaking	16/01/2015	27/03/2015	Friday	13:00 to 15:00	£70.00	£63.00

For an Early Bird Sale Fee on the following courses, enroll and pay at Hateley Heath FETC (B71 2LP) up to 16th January 2015. Telephone 0121 556 7426 for details

** Note: further fee discounts may be available subject to learner eligibility*

Venue Name	Course Title	Start Date	Finish Date	Day (s)	Times	Standard Fee* (from 12th Jan)	Early Bird Fee
TANHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE	Flower Arranging	12/01/2015	23/03/2015	Monday	14:00 to 15:30	£52.00	£46.00
HATELEY HEATH FETC	Flower Arranging	12/01/2015	23/03/2015	Monday	18:30 to 20:00	£52.00	£46.00
TANHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE	Painting & Drawing	12/01/2015	23/03/2015	Monday	11:15 to 13:15	£70.00	£63.00
HATELEY HEATH FETC	Repairs and Alterations	12/01/2015	23/03/2015	Monday	18:00 to 20:00	£70.00	£63.00
TANHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE	Yoga for improvers	12/01/2015	23/03/2015	Monday	9:30 to 11:00	£52.00	£46.00
TANHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE	Yoga Intermediate	12/01/2015	23/03/2015	Monday	19:00 to 20:30	£52.00	£46.00
TANHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE	Zumba	12/01/2015	23/03/2015	Monday	18:00 to 19:00	£35.00	£31.00
TANHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE	Painting & Drawing	13/01/2015	24/03/2015	Tuesday	10:00 to 12:00	£70.00	£63.00
CENTRAL SIXTH (THE PUBLIC)	Sewing and Dressmaking	13/01/2015	24/03/2015	Tuesday	18:30 to 20:30	£70.00	£63.00
TANHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE	Thighs Bums and Tums	13/01/2015	24/03/2015	Tuesday	9:30 to 10:30	£35.00	£31.00
TANHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE	Ladies Keep Fit	14/01/2015	25/03/2015	Wednesday	19:00 to 20:30	£52.00	£46.00
CENTRAL SIXTH (THE PUBLIC)	Painting & Drawing	14/01/2015	25/03/2015	Wednesday	18:30 to 20:30	£70.00	£63.00
CENTRAL SIXTH (THE PUBLIC)	Repairs and Alterations	14/01/2015	25/03/2015	Wednesday	18:30 to 20:30	£70.00	£63.00
HATELEY HEATH FETC	Sewing and Dressmaking	14/01/2015	25/03/2015	Wednesday	11:30 to 13:30	£70.00	£63.00
TANHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE	Yoga Intermediate	14/01/2015	25/03/2015	Wednesday	10:45 to 12:15	£52.00	£46.00
TANHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE	Gentle Rhythmic Exercise	15/01/2015	26/03/2015	Thursday	13:30 to 14:30	£35.00	£31.00
GREAT BARR AFLC	Fitness for Men 40+	16/01/2015	27/03/2015	Friday	14:00 to 15:30	£52.00	£46.00

Traineeships

WORK SMART

Get Ahead of the Competition

NEW TRAINEESHIPS

starting in January at
RON DAVIS CENTRE
(0121 555 6255)
and
TIPTON COLLEGE
(0121 557 0837)

FREE !!

FAMILY AND ADULT ARTS WORKSHOPS

at the Arts Café West Bromwich
(formerly the pUBLIC)

14th February Hearts and Crafts
28th February Dragons and Daffodils

Call 0121 556 7426 for details and to book a space

Sandwell Adult and Family Learning Services

www.learnsafl.ac.uk

Learn new skills ▫ meet new people ▫ be inspired

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Team's on the ball for growth with kits

Front, Glyn Marston, with back, from left, Chelsie Guy, Josh Roberts, Lee Walters, Dale Williams, and Liam Marston

PLAYERS at an up-and-coming dodgeball squad have unveiled their new name and kit as part of the expansion of the club. The Black Country Knights is the new adult team that has grown out of Walsall Warriors. The Warriors remains the name of the junior arm of the club set up by former marathon runner Glyn Marston.

The Knights are celebrating the arrival of their new snazzy blue and black shirts. Mr Marston says: "The design of the new shirt is proving quite popular. People from other teams are buying them and a female player from the United States also ordered one. We're have got plans for the club which we hope to see grow in membership. We're hoping the new shirts will help to raise our profile."

The team currently plays in the Midlands based Northern Conference Division Two League. The Black Country Knights train on Mondays at Willenhall Youth and Community Foundation, in Gomer Street, Willenhall, from 7-9pm and Wednesdays at Portway Lifestyle Centre, in Banbury Road, Oldbury, from 7pm to 8pm.

All-weather £250k pitch lined up by university

NEW plans for a new £250,000 floodlit all-weather pitch at a university complex in the Black Country have been revealed.

Aston University is looking to create the modern facilities to replace the synthetic pitch at the site next to the West Bromwich Albion training ground in Great Barr on the Walsall and Sandwell border.

The project has been awarded £247,000 of funding through Sport England and will help expand the community sports programme run through the university.

Proposals for the project, which includes replacing lighting and upgrading fencing, have now been submitted to Walsall Council planners.

Subject to council planning approval, work on the new pitch is anticipated to start in early spring and be completed by mid-summer.

The university, which has the outdoor recreation centre off Birmingham Road, is looking to increase the number of 14 to 25-year-olds regularly participating in sport in the area. The current surface has suffered from drainage and flooding problems, prompting the plans.

by Craig Hughes

It is hoped competitive hockey associations from the Walsall, Sandwell and North Birmingham areas will join clubs in using the multi-use surface.

Bosses hope sports clubs in the area who have been struggling to find available, safe, good standard facilities to play matches throughout the week and schools will also be able to use the pitch.

Aston's director of sport, Mike Kirkman, said: "We recognise that we have an important role to play in encouraging students to live healthy, active lifestyles and to continue playing sport during their period of academic study.

"Our new pitch will help us deliver on that commitment."

Now Registering NHS Dental Patients
The Bridge Park NHS Dental Practice, West Bromwich
Call 0330 123 9118 to Secure Your Place

EMERGENCY APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE DAILY

- Opening Times
  9 am - 6 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday
  9 am - 8 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays
  9 am - 1 pm Saturday

- Come and meet our friendly team - Call in to find out more or book an appointment
- NHS Dentistry is FREE for children and people on low incomes
- NHS Registrations Now Available

primecare
Providing NHS Dentistry
NHS

The Bridge Park Dental Practice at Unit 12, Great Bridge St, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 0EN
Call 0330 1239118 or email bridgeparkdental@nhs.net www.bridgeparkdental.co.uk

Play | Learn | Have fun | Explore | Make new friends | Adventure

FREE childcare for 2 year olds in Sandwell

Your 2 year old may be able to get up to 15 hours free childcare a week during term time.

That's 15 hours a week to learn through play, make their first friends, sing, dance, dress up and have lots of fun.

That's also 15 hours a week for you to have a break, spend more time with your younger children, get stuff done around the house, study or look for work.

To find out more please contact Sandwell Family Information Service 0121 569 4914 or visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/freechildcare

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Sandwell Family Information Service

Making Friends

Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

PATRICIA widow 67, likes simple pleasures in life, seeks gent, N/S for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415685**

50 year old widow, love reading, walking, horse riding, clay shooting, swimming & keep fit, 5ft 5 blond hair, gsoh looking for similar male. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4435776**

KAREN 50, widow, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767**

FEMALE looking for male any age for fun, meet ups, friendship and take it from there. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4550576**

GEM 34yr old pretty brunette with lovely big eyes and nice skin, many interests, WLTM kind tallish male, 30-50yrs for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415571**

SYLVIA attractive blonde size 12 45yr old female looking for genuine companionship, someone to spend quality times with, enjoy music and cosy times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415543**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399**

HOME alone far too often, attractive bubby fun good time girl 32yrs seeking male 30-50yrs for broadminded daytime fun. Let's rid the boredom! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415523**

LUCY, 32yrs, blonde lady seeks naughty boys of any age for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0905 002 1887 Box No: 413443**

SUE attractive, independent, confident female, sporty, petite, loves the Arts, good books, looking for romantic, sensitive nice guy for nice times together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415501**

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301**

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

LUCY, broadminded 18yrs seeks discreet fun with men any age. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1941 Box No: 365051**

AMANDA 5ft 4ins slim fit attractive, enjoys the outdoors, nice wine, theatre etc. seeking romantic considerate soul mate to broaden my horizons. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415391**

SEXY brunette, mid 20's busty, adventurous broad minded seeks no strings fun. **Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box No: 361739**

SAM attractive single mum who really enjoys life and likes to be happy WLTM genuine single male/dad for mutual companionship, dates in/out and tlc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415381**

SALLY, 38yrs large cuddly lady seeks slim men for discreet meetings. **Text Only 4550193**

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

TRUDY 36yrs, wltm broadminded men of any age/area for daytime meetings. **Text Only 4550194**

23YR old Asian female, seeks sugar daddy, any age for fun and much more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415367**

MELANIE, 38, slim, blonde and bored. Call if you want no strings fun. **Text Only 4550198**

YOUNG looking female, likes rock music, concerts, theatre, seeks Rock male with similar interests for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415249**

JENNI, 52 bored housewife wants no strings fun with younger chap. **Text Only 4550197**

MANDY very attractive, slim single mum 36yrs, employed, OHAC, looking to share some quality times with similar genuine kind hearted social male/dad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415409**

DIANE attractive singleton seeks male to have some fun with, meals out, cinema, dancing and just see were things lead from there. Age/race unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415373**

SHELIA Asian 20yr old female, very pretty, feminine with long hair, enjoys nights in or out, seeking mature white male 55plus for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415181**

MARGARET 39, attractive active female likes animals, reading, meals in/out, seeking considerate partner for good laughs, companionship, shared interests and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414727**

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fir, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211**

BUBBLY larger than life 28yr old blonde bombshell, seeks large built male to fulfil my every fantasy! Give me a call; I will totally make your day maybe even your year. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414977**

BARBARA 38 slim sporty attractive blonde, varied interests, single and ready to date, seeks kind honest guy for shared interests, fun nights out, hopefully leading to more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414967**

JULIE single petite attractive big blue eyed brunette, loves cooking a cosy meal in, nights out, searching for real love with genuinely nice guy. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414491**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

MARK 6ft, slim, blue eyes, dark hair, seeking that special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415697**

JAMES, hard working single dad, late 30's seeks single mum for family days out. **Text Only 4550196**

MALE 47, medium build, seeks female, 40-50 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415651**

JOHN, 42yrs professional genuine gent seeks caring lady to treat as a princess. **Text Only 4550195**

JOHN 46, West Midlands, seeks local black/Asian female, 30-70 for discreet adult fun, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415591**

SHAUN 26 likes walking, singing, music, would like to meet someone my own age for friendship maybe relationship. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4567328**

GENUINE guy looking for uncomplicated fun with lady up to 50 txt only will answer all txt. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4202609**

GENTLEMAN retired, N/S, seeking lady for companionship and sharing good times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415609**

TRUSTWORTHY fit, active, caring, N/S, easy going male, 68, GSOH, seeks warm, genuine lady, 59-72 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414151**

PROFESSIONAL male, 49 looking for fun and good times with voluptuous lady. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4574340**

MALC 50, seeking adventurous, spontaneous, sensual female, 50-65 for adult fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415253**

PHIL 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991**

GARY 6ft 2ins, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, likes nights in/out, seeks female, 30-50. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414845**

SLIM male, 59, seeks no strings adult fun with broadminded mature woman, 65 plus. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414983**

ROY 6ft 2ins, late 50's, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414775**

JOHN 40's, tall, athletic, active, adventurous, cheeky, tactile, fun, own teeth, loves life, seeks similar fun female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414067**

SEAN looking for female to share a coffee, pub, clubs and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414549**

MALE seeking fun bubbly female, 21-30. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415473**

GENUINE friendly, N/S professional, honest gent, medium build, GSOH, good heart essential, seeks equivalent lady, 45-60 for company and conversation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414311**

MATURE male, 6ft, GSOH, fit, active, loving, honest, N/S, seeks female with similar qualities. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414261**

EXTREMELY genuine! Life's true gent, 54, slim, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, short hair, N/S, GSOH, seeks female, 41-52. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413925**

34YR old slim, dark haired, creative, adventurous, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

Try it.. You'll love it!

YOUR local dating service **run by the dating experts since 1990 ...**
REAL people REAL ads

How to use your dating service

To place your own advert call:
0844 887 2293
and follow the simple instructions

Call today!

To Place your ad by text
Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098** FREE
(Standard Network rates apply)

Reply to members call:
0906 500 3955
call cost £1.53 per min
Before you dial ! Have the adverts 6-digit box number written down and key-it-in promptly when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

For a quick service from your mobile call: **0906 500 5650**
calls cost £1.50 per minute plus network charges

Or text.. **REPLY** 26 (leave a space) then enter the six-digit box number given on their advert (leave a space) and then enter your message & send to **80098**, eg:
REPLY 26 123456 ***hi get in touch...***
then send to **80098**

Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

Date ONLINE
YOU can now date online or via your **mobile.** Simply **VISIT** us at:
http://dating.expressandstar.com

Been left a message?
Pickup your replies on:
0906 500 3957
calls cost £1.53 per min
PLUS you can also listen to other members greetings on this number.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT
Call 0207 720 7130 Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm or email us at support@jmediauk.co.uk

visit us at: http://dating.expressandstar.com

CALL CHARGES*: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 090 calls cost £1.53 per min. plus network charges. Calls from Mobiles will be considerably higher. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT*: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates-terms.co.uk/. REPLY BY TEXT*: 80098 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed to receive 1 - 4 messages for each message you send, Service only available where phone icon show. Messages are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to chose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. Some advertisers on this page come from our national database. To STOP text stop to 80098. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. ALL SERVICES*: By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, SW4 7BX, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. W/C 05/01/15

Yoda feels the force of zoo count

Primate Keeper Sam Grove logs Yoda the lemur during the animal count at Dudley Zoo

ONE down, only 1,799 to go. While Yoda the lemur was safely ticked off, there was plenty more work to be done in a week like no other for the keepers at Dudley Zoo.

Workers had to take on the daunting task of totting up each and every creature across the 40-acre attraction as part of the annual animal census, which usually takes five days to complete.

Dudley Zoo is required under the terms of its licence to keep an accurate total of how many animals are in its care – from the tiniest ant to the tallest giraffe.

There have been many comings and goings over the last 12 months.

The zoo's number was boosted by a host of new arrivals during 2014, including carpathian lynx triplets and Malaku the snow leopard, while long-serving favourites have also died.

The task is easier for some keepers than others.

For those looking after the Sumatran tigers, it will take no longer than a few minutes to arrive at a total, but those tasked with keeping a tally of the insects face an altogether different challenge.

Dr David Beeston, the zoo's registrar and research co-ordinator, who is overseeing the census, said: "Most of the data collection is straightforward and some sections definitely have it easier than others."

"We know we have three snow leopards and four Bornean orangutans but it's making sure we've counted the identical creatures, such as our 70-strong colony of Humboldt penguins or stick insects in the Discovery Centre which takes a lot of patience."

Zookeeper Adam Wrench said the process is more of a formality for him, as he normally knows how many animals he is handling.

He said: "It's part of the day-to-day routine to check the stock and make sure they're all ok. It's more of a difficult task with the smaller animals."

So over the next few days, visitors are likely to see zookeepers with a clipboard in hand scribbling away, trying to find the simplest way to complete the task.

Isn't it time for a New Garage Door?
With the ESSATI SALE, the decision's made so much easier
Our top of the range electric 'remote controlled' insulated aluminium rolling garage door -operated by hand held 'keyring' handset is currently reduced from a RRP of £2250 - to an amazing £699 inc VAT & fitting.
NOW JUST £699!
INCLUDING VAT & FREE FITTIING
70% OFF
Price includes:
- Remote Control & keyring handset
- Manual override for use in a power cut
- All doors conform fully to EU safety directives
- Extremely secure auto-locking system
- White as standard, other colours available - ask for details
- Full 12 month warranty
- Bottom rubber weatherseal
- Price is for any sized single sized door up to 8ft 6" wide
- Double skinned aluminium with foam insulation

CALL 01245 396910
This special offer includes free fitting.
The offer on our website does not include free fitting.
To benefit from this offer you should call 01245 396910
www.essatigaragedoors.co.uk

C&T DOORS & WINDOWS Ltd
SALE NOW ON ALL AREAS COVERED...
Unglazed/Glazed Upvc Doors from £349 FULLY FITTED
3mtr x 3mtr EDWARDIAN CONSERVATORY from £4500
NEW OFFER French/Patio Doors FULLY FITTED from £649
FULLY FITTED within 2 weeks *For a service you can trust*
MANY MORE DESIGNS AVAILABLE
•New Improved 10 Point Claw Lock •Steel Reinforced
www.candtdoorsandwindows.co.uk
Tel: 07759 536818 or 01902 842706
email: enquiries@candtdoorsandwindows.co.uk

Designa Blinds
Vertical Blind Specialist
Tel: 07976 045 530
Tel: 0121 293 7119
Child Safe - Cordless Systems
Full Range of Fabrics
Free Measure & Quote
Fast Reliable Service
Competitive Pricing
Fabrics only Service available
Conservatories from £275
Average Semi £300
Showrooms at: West Bromwich Indoor Market, Bearwood Indoor Market, Northfield Indoor Market
Factory Showroom: Wolverhampton Road South B32 2AY

Cliff on track for 100th milestone celebrations

A FORMER rail worker for almost 50 years celebrated his milestone 100th birthday with his favourite meal – a prime piece of sirloin steak.

Cliff Weaver from Walsall was joined by close family including his 95 year-old sister to mark the occasion at the Park Inn in West Bromwich.

The centenarian was originally from Yorkshire and started off as a junior rail porter and also worked as a clerk before coming to the Birmingham with his family. He worked in the signal box at Marston Green and then relocated to Hamstead where he was head porter and met his wife-to-be Lily.

They got married at St Paul's Church, Golds Hill, West Bromwich in 1943 and lived at Hill Top. The couple, who had no children, moved to Walsall more than 30 years although former schoolteacher Lily passed away more than six years ago aged 90.

Heater

Mr Weaver's niece Pat Geddes and nephew Bill helped to organise the celebration of his birthday on December 20 with the meal out with family. This included his nonagenarian sister Doreen.

Pat said staff at the Park Inn hotel, near West Bromwich FC, had treated Mr Weaver, who was a ticket inspector during the later stage of his working career, like a king.

This included bringing over a heater to keep him and his sister warm.

Pat, aged 70, said: "He just wanted a steak meal and he wanted us to be there," she said.

"It is his favourite meal he loves a steak. It is fantastic to reach 100. When we first suggested doing something he said 'what is so special.' He is very generous."

The centenarian seen with his cards and a balloon to mark his milestone

Cliff Weaver seen with his wife Lily on their wedding day in 1943

Fake Frozen dolls warning

Parents are being warned that counterfeit dolls from the hit Disney film Frozen containing harmful chemicals may be circulating in Walsall.

The Anna and Elsa dolls sing the chart topping song Let It Go from the movie, together with Olaf the Snowman.

Disney has confirmed the product, which originates from China and has no manufacturer or importer details, is fake.

Trading Standards officers in Walsall said it is important people check with them if they believe they may have one of the counterfeit dolls.

It is believed the items may contain chemicals that can cause cancer, birth defects and infertility in men.

They have issued the warning after a member of the public contacted Trading Standards alleging the counterfeit products were being sold on market stalls and on social networking site Facebook. Call Trading Standards on 0345 4040506.

Apply online .. it's fast .. it's flexible .. it's secure

Going to school in Sandwell in September 2015

Choosing a Sandwell school is a wise move.

Sandwell has one of the highest proportions of primary schools rated as good or outstanding by OfSTED in the West Midlands.

Results in our primary schools have improved over the last 5 years.

If you have a child born between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011 they are due to start reception class

If you are a Sandwell resident and have not yet applied for a place please visit our website to complete and submit your application

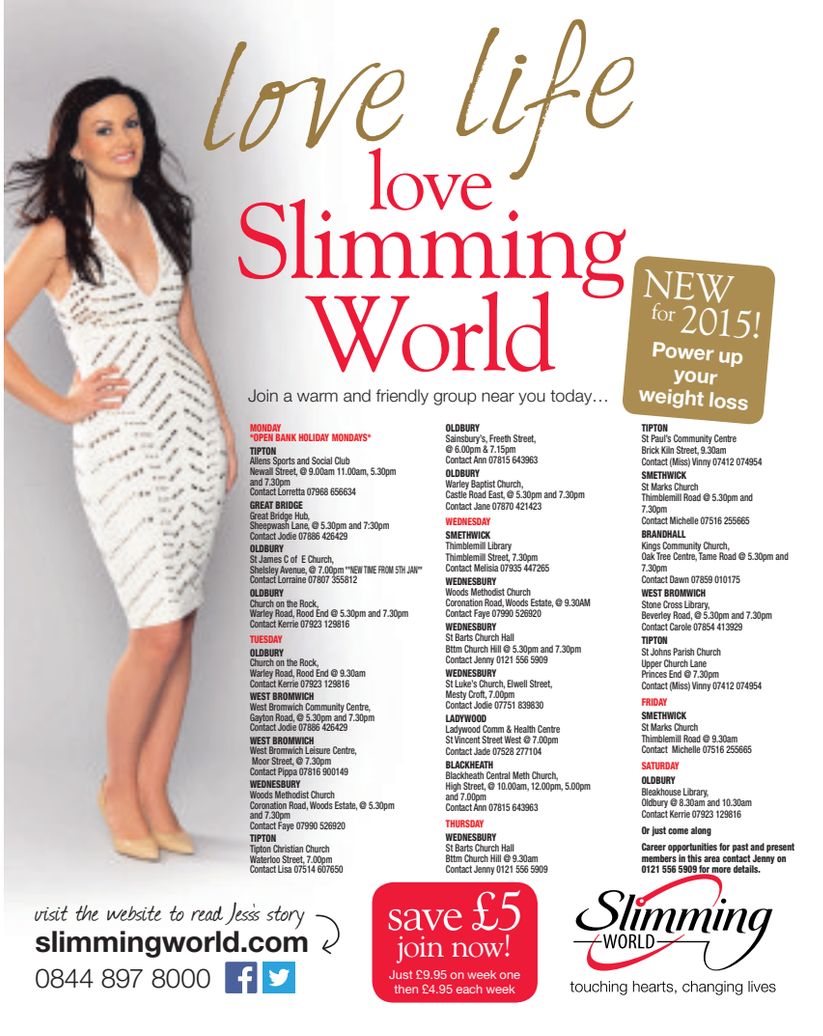
www.sandwell.gov.uk/schooladmissions

But hurry— the closing date for reception and junior applications is 15 January 2015.

If you require help or further information please phone the Admissions Parent Support line on: 0121-569 6765

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council,
Learning Services,
School Admissions Service,
PO Box 16230
Sandwell Council House,
Freeth Street, Oldbury B69 9EX
annual_schooladmissions@sandwell.gov.uk

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council



The Grand Theatre opened on December 10, 1894 with this impressive frontage

1920s audience fill the stalls and balcony

Giant crown in honour of the Queen's Coronation in 1953

So Grand – 120 years on and city theatre is still packing them in

MEMORY LANE

By Tim Spiers

IT all began shortly before 6pm on December 10, 1894, when the Grand Theatre opened its doors for the very first time.

Crowds swarmed to Lichfield Street to see the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company perform Gilbert and Sullivan's Utopia Limited, and history was made.

It had taken just six months to build but, remarkably, the theatre has stood for 120 years. It has seen off other theatres, trends and recessions and is more popular now than ever.

Not bad for something which was only expected to last 20 or 30 years. And equally not bad for a building which, quite literally, didn't have any foundations.

"Back then, the lifespan of a theatre was just 20 or 30 years," said current chief executive of the Grand, Pete Cutchie. "They thought it wouldn't last, or would maybe be moved elsewhere, but it's stood the test of time.

"There are foundations at the back of the building now, but there are no foundations under the front part of the building.

"It was built on demolished farm buildings – it's amazing that we're still here."

Prolific and well-respected architect Charles J Phipps designed the famous old building, which was constructed by Wolverhampton's Henry Gough. The cost? Just £10,000.

And the theatre began life as it meant to go on, with Utopia Limited a roaring success. Not everything remained intact that night though. A pair of opera glasses – which reappeared after being donated to the theatre five years ago for a 115-year anniversary celebration – were stolen.

Nine-year-old Tom Latham pocketed the glasses as a lasting memory of the first curtain-up at the theatre where he would later work as stage manager for 35 years.

Mr Latham's granddaughter, Elaine Mullett, said of the cheeky theft: "He was a bit naughty and wanted a little piece of history to keep because he fell in love with the place on that opening night.

"He queued on his own for hours and hours. He was just mesmerised by it – the noise and the colour."

Nowadays, the Grand is very much Wolverhampton's primary theatre but in its early days it had strong competition.

Recognise

The Empire Palace Theatre, later known as The Hippodrome, was built in 1898 in Queen Square and there was the Prince of Wales Theatre in Bilston Street.

The Theatre Royal had previously been Wolverhampton's main theatre, but closed in the same month the Grand opened. Despite so many changes around it, the Grand itself hasn't changed a huge amount in 120 years.

Mr Cutchie said: "If Phipps came back now he'd recognise the frontage, apart from the fact the shops are missing and he'd vaguely recognise the foyer. And as for the auditorium itself – nothing has changed."

The theatre held up to 2,400 people, double its capacity in 2014.

As Louise Walker, the Grand's creative learning manager and also unofficial historian, explains, people were crammed in – and segregated accordingly.

"The Grand was brought about by a need for high-class, civilised theatre for the folk of Wolverhampton," she said. "It was segregated in the same way as the social structure at the time. You had your working class people at the top and the whole thing was double the capacity it is now.

"Of course there was no TV or radio so this was a main form of entertainment and probably quite affordable for most people."

The theatre quickly established itself and soon attracted star names.

Sir Henry Irving, the greatest Victorian actor of his day, appeared in four plays in the early 20th century. Some Grand actors who later became huge names were relative unknowns then, including Charlie Chaplin.

Patriotic - flying the flag at the Grand

Choose the right care this winter.

NHS
Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group

1 Self-care
Treat yourself at home with a stocked up cupboard of medicine for minor injuries and illnesses like coughs and colds.

2 Local pharmacy
Provides confidential, expert advice and medical treatment for a range of common illnesses.

3 NHS 111
For advice on what healthcare you need for your injury or illness, call 111.
CALL 111 when it's less urgent than 999

4 Walk-in Centre
For minor injuries, trips, falls and skin complaints. If you cannot wait for a GP appointment, use Parsonage Street and Summerfield walk-in centres, open 8am-8pm daily.

5 GP
Have an illness or injury that won't go away? Call your local GP surgery for advice on whether you need an appointment.

6 A&E or 999
A&E and 999 are only for the most serious and life-threatening health emergencies.

If you're not sure what healthcare you need, always call 111 first for advice and signposting.

Choose well.

Visit www.choosewellmidlands.nhs.uk
#Choosewell

5 DAY COACH BREAK TO SCOTLAND - £164

THURSDAY 19TH MARCH

Loch Long Hotel Loch Lomond National Park
STB★★★

SPRING CEILIDH

This 5 day coach break staying at our Loch Long Hotel includes a "Ceilidh Night" (Kay-lee), when you will enjoy typical Scottish entertainment with foot tapping music provided by accordionists, pipers and highland dancers. There will also be an excursion everyday including a cruise on Loch Lomond, Inveraray, Glencoe, Rannoch Moor, Fort William & Edinburgh.

TOUR INCLUDES:
- 4 Nights Half Board
- Nightly entertainment
- Excursions

PICKUP FROM:
Birmingham, Smethwick, West Bromwich, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall

LOCHS & GLENS HOLIDAYS

Holidays are fully bonded. School Road, Gartocharn, G83 8RW

www.LOCHS.COM 01389 713713

FIREWOOD FOR SALE

MIXED WOOD LOGS IN BUILDERS BAG
£60 DELIVERED
HALF LOADS AVAILABLE

LAMBSWICK LOGS
CALL TODAY on
07505 030643

Are You Ready?

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.

He says: Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matt.:11:28)

For more, Call: 07903 180985 or 07949 559924
Visit: **Forever Living Christ Ministries Int.,** 11-13 Walsall Street, West Bromwich B70 7NX
Email: services@flcm.org.uk www.flcm.org.uk
Service: 11.00am Sundays

Tower blocks to be revamped in £50m scheme

THE next stage of a £50million project to revamp 6,000 council homes across Sandwell will get under way this month.

Work has been carried out on estates in Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Tipton and West Bromwich as part of a three-year Sandwell Council scheme.

Houses are being fitted with new kitchens and bathrooms, electrical rewiring and heating systems, along with new roofing and windows.

Contractors will now be looking at properties on estates around Smethwick and Wednesbury. Councillor Ian Jones, cabinet member for jobs and economy said: "We are working hard with our partners to make sure improvements are carried out to a high standard and within the set timescales."

The work is being carried out with three building firms – Lovell Partnerships Limited, Vinci Facilities and Wates Living Space. Work is also taking place to revamp three tower blocks in Smethwick. More than 250 homes at the site known as The Crofts, in Windmill Lane are being refurbished.

Modern balconies and windows will be installed at the high-rise blocks, which have 270 flats. They will get new roofs and external cladding, in different colours. It is hoped the work to improve insulation will help to reduce fuel bills.

The £11m project is expected to take two years to complete and will be finished in 2016. Regeneration specialist Keepmoat is carrying out the major improvement programme. It comes after the news that dozens of new council homes will be built in Sandwell as part of a £12.5 million scheme.

Dozens

Land earmarked for development includes the former Bolton Court site in Ocker Hill and Tibbington Terrace, both in Tipton; Doulton Road, Rowley Regis and Kent Close in West Bromwich. A total of 145 homes will be built. They will include 36 new council homes – seven at Tibbington Terrace and 29 at Kent Close – with a further 109 homes for private sale across the Boulton Court, Tibbington Terrace and Doulton Road sites.

Kier will develop the sites and build the council homes under licence for the council which will be added to Sandwell's council housing stock.

Councillor Jones said: "Working with Kier Partnership Homes as our development partner on these sites means that we are able to replace some of the homes that we have lost from our own stock through Right to Buy and after those have been completed a number of homes for private sale will be also be available."

The new council homes for rent will be built first, with work scheduled for completion in 2016. with The private properties are scheduled to be on the market from 2016 to 2018.

The deal will also create a number of construction training places and construction jobs for local people.

An image of the revamped blocks at The Crofts, Smethwick

£300 thief at bookies walks free from court

A PROLIFIC offender stole more than £300 from a bookmakers while staff were preoccupied calling for medical help for him after his friends said he needed an ambulance.

by Dominic Bareham

Craig Butcher, aged 33, of no fixed abode, eventually entered the Ladbrokes in Queens Square in West Bromwich to tell a female staff member he did not require the ambulance.

But while inside, he helped himself to £320. He then spent the money on crack cocaine, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard on Monday.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said the incident happened on November 18 when the female staff member noticed a group of men drinking outside the shop at 6.40pm. One of the men in the group then suggested to the staff in the Ladbrokes branch that Butcher needed an ambulance.

Witnessed

However, the defendant, who pleaded guilty to theft, decided he did not need medical help after all and went into the betting shop to tell the team.

Mr Searle said while Butcher was inside he 'took the opportunity' to steal £20 notes from a cash till that had been left unlocked and unsupervised, but his crime was witnessed by the employee who saw him walking towards the rest of the group with the £20 notes.

Mr Searle said: "She told him to stop and he said 'just move or I'll smack you.' He walked out of the store and out of the area.

Police were able to identify the defendant, who has 68 previous convictions, from CCTV and arrested him on November 19. He admitted he had stolen the money during police interviews. His previous offences included thefts, robbery and attempted robbery, possession of a bladed weapon.

Ms Blondel Thompson, mitigating, suggested Butcher receive a fine or community order, adding that he had already spent seven weeks in prison following his arrest.

She said even though he had extensive previous convictions, he should be convicted on the basis of his latest crime. She added: "He is now 33 years old and has no desire to waste his life coming before the courts and spending the majority of them in custody."

Judge Helen Hughes said: "Counsel properly recognises that your record is appalling.

"I am satisfied that drink was involved and that the crime was on the spur of the moment. You got yourself into the shop and saw the open till and the temptation proved too much for you."

She sentenced Butcher to 14 weeks in prison, but he has already served seven, meaning he was freed.

Aldi recalls chocolate in salmonella scare

ALDI has issued a product recall after salmonella was found in a batch of chocolate on sale in stores in the Midlands.

The supermarket chain is recalling its 200g packs of Choceur Treasures with a best before date of September 1, 2015.

Salmonella was detected in one batch of the product, which consists of hazelnut wrapped in waffle and milk chocolate

The batch has been on sale in Aldi stores in the Midlands region only.

The Food Standards Agency say Aldi have issued the product recall and is advising customers not to eat the chocolate if they have bought it.

No other Choceur/Aldi products are known to be affected and Aldi has product recall notices on display in the relevant stores.

Our best ever January
Sale
TRUSTED BY YOU SINCE 2005
This January bring your kitchen upto date quickly and save money using Replacement Doors & Drawers
Save over 33%
its as easy as
one two free!
Why spend thousands on a new kitchen when a kitchen makeover using made to measure Doors looks just as effective at a fraction of the cost and without all the hassle - Right now with our Buy two Get One FREE **January offer** there has never been a better time to buy!
We will beat any 'like for like' quote
0800 088 7044
Doors & More
Often imitated, never equalled!
- Keep your units - we'll make the New Doors
- All Doors Made to Measure
- Change Worktops, Sinks, Taps etc (easily)
- Get that Fresh New Look
- Most jobs can be Done in 1 day!
Five Local Showrooms ALL OPEN TODAY!
(Fully Staffed - No appointment necessary)
FREE DOORS
Save over 33% with our buy Two get One Free Offer!
(No Limit on order size)
FREE WORKTOPS
Buy More than 8 Doors and for every 2m of worktop purchased we'll give you an extra metre!
FREE HINGES
Act Fast! All orders placed before 21.01.2015 qualifies for FREE SOFT-CLOSE HINGES!
Easy to find
Free & Easy to park!
We Are Here!
McDonalds
Towards Motorway
Towards City Centre
Towards Molineux
Showroom: Unit 24 Wulfrun Est., Stafford Road Wolverhampton WV10 6HH
01902 581 570/01902 712 851
www.imore.co.uk
No.1 SINCE 2005

Major Singh Kheela - "THE POWER" behind the Great Bridge pub THE LOUNGE BAR

The lounge bar public house has been at the heart of the Great Bridge community since 1837. Formally known as The Limerick, this listed building has served local industries, market traders, and store holders for many years.

Former weight lifter Major Singh Kheela decided to buy the building and invest a lot of money in both the building and the local area, to ensure that this famous landmark remained as the hub for the local community for many years to come. Since taking over the building Mr singh has seen the fortunes of the pub go from strength to strength, with feedback from the regular customers singing his praise for turning the pub around and making it a very welcome place to visit for families and their friends.

The atmosphere is greatly improved on match days as The Lounge Bar is well known for being a sporting venue, showing all Premiership games on their array of widescreen TVs in high definition, surround sound, where locals can enjoy a great value drink, a complimentary samosa and watch their favourite football team in action.

Weddings and Parties

Another string to the bow for the Lounge Bar is the availability of business conference facilities and the large function room can also be used to cater for weddings and parties.

Having arrived from India in 1965 with no formal education, and not able to speak English, Major Singh attended a local school in Smethwick, worked hard and is now one of the most successful business men in the West Midlands. He left school a year earlier than he should as he was keen to get out into the working world beginning as a foundry worker at Midland Die casting in West Bromwich and then eventually setting up his own market stall. After expansion he was in a position to run many stalls and even had twenty staff working for him at one stage.

Moving into the pub trade some years later, Major's first pub was The Shakespeare in the early 1980's and then bought The Limerick in 1994 when it was in disrepute, and has since added to the great success of this traditional market pub.

Known as "THE POWER", Major started taking an interest in weightlifting in the 1980's and has competed in various championships throughout the West Midlands, culminating in his "personal best" in 1986 lifting 185kg in the "clean and jerk".

Complimentary Buffet

On the 23rd January 2015, Major Singh Kheela is going to celebrate his 65th birthday. He is looking forward to seeing his regular customers and locals to join him for a complimentary buffet on the evening, and with a glint in his eye says "although I am turning 65, I have no intention of retiring just yet!"

The Lounge Bar & Function Suite

BT Sport

HD MULTI SCREEN LED T.V'S

ALL LIVE SPORT GAMES SHOWN HERE • WEEKEND ENTERTAINMENT WITH HD MUSIC SYSTEM

sky SPORTS

£2 PINT OF CARLING MON - THURS
£2.30 PINT OF CARLING FRI - SUN

FAMILY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE.
GREAT WEST BROMWICH ALBION PUB

SUPERB FUNCTION SUITE
HOLDS UP TO 200 PEOPLE
ALL OCCASIONS CATERED FOR, PARTIES, WEDDINGS, BUSINESS CONFERENCES.
CATERING AND ENTERTAINMENT AVAILABLE

Fully Licensed 'til 2am

The Lounge Bar

Presents an evening with

WEST BROM
Super Bob Taylor

17th January 2015

KICK OFF 5pm

Free Entry
Complementary food available £2.30 pint of carling...

5 MARKET PLACE,
GREAT BRIDGE
0121 557 6506
07925 154856
theloungebar@hotmail.com

Sandwell College

Training the next generation of professionals

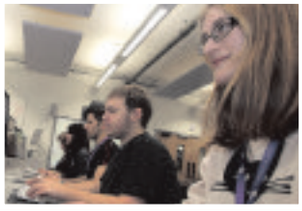
BLISS
HAIR & BEAUTY SALON

Leisure Courses 2014/5

Course/Topic	Duration	Fee Charged
Introduction to Nail Art	6 weeks (2 hours per week)	£75
Introduction to Hair Up	6 weeks (2.5 hours per week)	£75
Introduction to Bridal Hair and Makeup	8 weeks (3 hours per week)	£175
Introduction to Aromatherapy	8 weeks (3 hours per week)	£150
Basic Cutting Programme for Hairdressing / Refresher Course	8 weeks (2.5 hours per week)	£100 (inc cost of training head £30)
Basic Colouring Programme for Hairdressing / Refresher Course	6 weeks (3 hours per week)	£100 (inc cost of colour)
Hopi Ear Candles	6 weeks (2 hours per week)	£60 (inc cost of candles £25-3 packs)
Basic Makeup Course	6 weeks (2 hours per week)	£60
Mendhi	6 weeks (2.5 hours per week)	£75
Working out made easy.... Introducing people to exercise and different training methods.	6 weeks (2 hours per week)	£60

OPEN EVENT
@ Central Campus & Central Sixth West Bromwich
Wednesday 14 January 5 - 8pm

For more details email bliss@sandwell.ac.uk or ring 0121 667 5159



COURSES FOR ADULTS
STARTING JANUARY/FEBRUARY

We have courses to help your career along and courses to get your new hobby started – all taught by our professional lecturers to the high standards that you'd expect from our highly successful college. To apply, pop into the college ASAP or fill in the application form by clicking the **January Start Courses for Adults** banner on our website.

Introduction to Photography and Intermediate Photography
10 week courses, one evening, £200

The introductory course covers principles and good practice, including such topics as composition, lenses and image manipulation. Workshops develop skills and camera control, whilst project work is geared to the learners' own interests and opportunities. You should have your own camera (it's not important what type) for use outside classes.

Introduction to Mentoring
10 week course, 10am-2pm Fridays, £175

The course offers foundation knowledge for those seeking a career in the areas of Mentoring, Counselling and Health and Social Care. It will equip you with valuable skills required to deal with clients and mentees and could lead on to a Level 2 Counselling programme.

Creative Writing – 10 week course, £175

This course will stimulate your creative juices, illuminate the creative writing processes and get you into the practice of writing on a regular basis. It is suitable for those with little or no experience of creative writing and is aimed at those who wish to explore the subject and improve and extend their skills.

Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA)
2 day course with written assessments and interviews, £750

If you have some experience of leading whole-class learning with no teacher present, this course offers an exciting opportunity for you to gain a recognised status qualification as a Teaching Assistant.

Manufacturing Engineering HNC – part time, evenings, 2 years

This two-year, part-time course is for people who are employed in an engineering environment and wish to move into a junior management role, or those in full-time education who wish to progress to a degree course in Engineering. For this course, please come to the open evening on 14 January or apply via the MAIN APPLICATION FORM on our website.

www.sandwell.ac.uk
0800 622006

RATED GOOD BY Ofsted
& OUTSTANDING BY OUR STUDENTS

Sandwell College

Gatehouse gig for Blair Dunlop

BLAIR Dunlop is coming to the Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford on January 12. The young Horizon award-winning guitarist has been making a big impression on the folk scene.

Dunlop is supported by rising starKelly Oliver who had a fantastically busy time last year with the launch of her first album. The show starts 8pm. Tickets are £12.50.

The Woodman Folk Club which meets at The Marina, Kingswinford plays host to Dublin entertainer Tommy Dempsey on January 16. Bill Caddick is back on the circuit and at the Black Country club, after a six year gap, on January 23. Both shows start 8.30pm and tickets for both are £6 for members and add £1 for non-members.

Ruby tour days for punk veterans

PUNK rock veterans The Stranglers celebrate 40 years on the music scene with their Ruby anniversary spring tour including a gig at Birmingham's 02 Academy on March 14.

Still featuring original members Jean-Jacques Burnel, Jet Black and Dave Greenfield, plus Baz Warne who has been with the band for nearly 15 years, the March On tour will include special guests The Rezillos.

The Stranglers, originally fronted by Hugh Cornwell, had hits including Peaches, No More Heroes, 5 Minutes, Golden Brown, Strange Little Girl, Skin Deep and Duchess.

Go East for a touching comedy about family divided by culture

Head out on the highway

JULIAN Cope is described by his publishers Bloomsbury as a 'visionary rock musician and musicologist, hip archaeologist and one-time front man of the Teardrop Explodes'.

He is in concert at Birmingham Glee Club on Sunday, January 25.

Cope has released over 20 solo albums, six acclaimed books, including his autobiography Head-On and guide to the German underground rock scene Krautrocksampler. His recent first work of fiction, One Three One, has been dubbed a 'hooligan road novel'.

Tamworth-raised Cope enjoyed chart hits with The Teardrop Explodes in the 1980s, had a huge solo hit with World Shut Your Mouth and made a string of acclaimed albums. This year he releases a new 'Best Of' compilation covering 1999-2014, entitled Trip Advizor.

Rocker, poet, pagan, hip historian and novelist Julian Cope

THE critically-acclaimed revival of culture clash comedy East Is East is coming to Birmingham fresh from a run in London's West End.

Starring Absolutely Fabulous and Trollied star Jane Horrocks as the mother in an Anglo Pakistani family in 1970s Salford, Ayub Khan Din's poignant comedy-drama was previously best known for the 1999 film version, made three years after the play's stage debut.

The production marks the return to the stage for TV and film star Horrocks, who plays Ella Khan. She is fondly remembered for her role as Edina Monsoon's barmy personal assistant Bubble in 'Ab Fab' and her movie performance alongside Michael Caine and Brenda Blethyn as the shy but remarkably talented LV in Little Voice.

The play also features the playwright/actor himself with Khan Din as Pakistani chip shop owner George Khan, who is determined to give his children a strict Muslim upbringing. The resulting household tension reaches breaking point as the long-suffering Ella gets caught in the crossfire between her husband and children.

A scene from the hit revival of East Is East

Chilling

East Is East is staged at the city's New Alexandra Theatre for a five-day run from Tuesday to the following Saturday.

There are other panto alternatives in the region with chilling tale of terror The Frozen Scream at The Patrick Centre in Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday, January 17. Actor/writer Christopher Green and novelist Sarah Walters, who wrote Fingersmith and Tipping The Velvet, have bravely taken on the task of turning a supposedly cursed novel by 1920s writer CC Gilbert into a play.

Drawing upon Norse myths about dangerous supernatural powers lurking in the snow, this immersive production puts the audience alongside the cast — including Rula Lenska — at a decadent 1920s house party during a blizzard where matters take a macabre turn.

The ticket price includes a cocktail for sexually frank and darkly comic monologue Fleabag at Birmingham Rep's The Door venue from January 14 to 21. Written by Phoebe Waller-Bridge and performed by Maddie Rice, it's not for the easily shocked.

There is still time to catch the pantos before the festive season becomes a distant memory. Julian Clary unleashes his withering wit as Dandini in Cinderella at Wolverhampton Grand until January 18. Matt Slack, Gary Wilmot and Paul Zerdin form their own crazy gang in Birmingham Hippodrome's spectacular Jack and the Beanstalk until February 1. Roald Dahl fans can have a whizz-banging time at Birmingham Rep with The BFG until January 24.

Bang Bang they're coming here soon

THE pop scene in the West Midlands this year will start with a Bang Bang when Jessie J performs at a sold-out Birmingham 02 Academy on January 27.

She plays the city as part of her six-date January UK tour after storming back into the charts with her hit Bang Bang with Ariana Grande and Nicki Minaj.

In October the release of her third studio album Sweet Album secured Jessie her third UK top five album and another MOBO Award for 'Best Female'.

Grande and Minaj also have gigs coming up in Birmingham, rapper Minaj is at the Barclaycard Arena on April 3 and Grande brings her Honeymoon tour to the same venue on June 9.

Woosey time for the Robin2

MATT Woosey will be bringing his blend of acoustic and blues music to the Robin2, Bilston on January 14. Woosey is touring on the back of his latest album Wildest Dreams. Tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the door. Woosey will be supported by Rebecca Downes.

Highly respected musician Phil Beer, also of Show of Hands fame, comes to the Red Lion Folk Club, King's Heath on January 14. Beer will be bringing the sounds of his new album Plays Guitar and Fiddle, Sings A Bit. The show starts at 7.45pm with the doors opening 7.15pm and tickets cost £13.

CHOICE

Rita Ora

The Voice UK (BBC1, 7pm)
New series. The return of the music contest in which the emphasis is on vocals rather than looks. With the departure of pop princess Kylie Minogue from the judging panel, R'n'B singer Rita Ora joins veteran star Tom Jones, producer, writer and rapper Will.i.am and Kaiser Chiefs frontman Ricky Wilson. As always, the contest kicks off with the blind auditions, in which the coaches begin the process of building their 12-strong teams by sitting with their backs to the auditionees and spinning their chair if they want that singer. If more than one coach turns, then the hopeful gets to choose whose team they join. Presenters Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are on hand to console and congratulate the hopefuls backstage.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Live Athletics: Great Edinburgh Cross Country. Coverage from Holyrood Park. **2.35** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. The opening men's semi-final. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.10 BBC News

6.30 Now You See It. New series. The best and worst of the magic world, featuring incredible performances from across the globe as well as tricks going wrong. Narrated by Mel Giedroyc.

7.00 The Voice UK. New series. The return of the music contest in which the emphasis is on vocals rather than looks. With the departure of pop princess Kylie Minogue from the judging panel, R'n'B singer Rita Ora joins veteran star Tom Jones, producer, writer and rapper Will.i.am and Kaiser Chiefs frontman Ricky Wilson. As always, the contest kicks off with the blind auditions, in which the coaches begin the process of building their 12-strong teams by sitting with their backs to the auditionees and spinning their chair if they want that singer. Presenters Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are on hand to console and congratulate the hopefuls, who include a Scottish fireman, a soap star's daughter and one of the nation's best-loved children's characters.

8.30 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants answer questions to try to win each other's dream prizes. Including the lottery draws, with Kate Garraway.

9.20 Casualty. Connie is torn between spending time with Grace and dealing with a demanding patient. Zoe treats an old man who makes her realise life is too short.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Everton v Manchester City at Goodison Park and Chelsea v Newcastle United at Stamford Bridge; National Lottery Update.

12.00 The Football League Show. **1.20 Film:** Kevin and Perry Go Large. (2000) **2.35** Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Apache Territory. (1958) **7.10 Film:** Private's Progress. (1956) **8.45 Film:** The Maggie. (1954) **10.15** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) **10.45** Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain. (R) **11.15** British Isles: A Natural History. (R) **12.05** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.50** Michael Caine: Talking Pictures. **1.45 Film:** The Ipcress File. (1965) Spy thriller, starring Michael Caine. **3.30** Escape to the Continent. (R) **4.30** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. The ladies' final.

6.00 Flog It! Trade Secrets. The experts offer advice on buying and selling military memorabilia and presenter Paul Martin explores the issues surrounding collecting antique firearms. (R)

6.30 Sacred Wonders of Britain. Neil Oliver travels to Iona in the Inner Hebrides to learn about St Columba's tough brand of monasticism, and finds out how the epic journey of St Cuthbert led to the writing of the Lindisfarne Gospels and the building of Durham Cathedral. At Canterbury Cathedral, Neil discovers how the gruesome murder of Thomas Becket spurred the building of its nave, and on Glastonbury Tor in Somerset, he investigates the story of the Holy Grail, the sacred cup of everlasting life. Last in the series. (R)

7.30 The Last Days of Anne Boleyn. Hilary Mantel, Philippa Gregory and David Starkey sift through the evidence to try to determine why Henry VIII's second wife was executed in 1536. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring and his platoon are ordered to clear the area for a major army exercise – but encounter a problem in the shape of a steam engine blocking the path. (R)

9.00 Britain's Tudor Treasure: A Night at Hampton Court. Historians Lucy Worsley and David Starkey present a re-creation of the christening service of Henry VIII's son Edward on October 15, 1537.

10.00 Film: The Other Boleyn Girl. (2008) A bitter rivalry develops between two sisters as they compete for the affection of King Henry VIII. Historical drama, starring Natalie Portman, Scarlett Johansson and Eric Bana.

11.50 Darts: BDO World Championships. 12.40 Film: Lady Caroline Lamb. (1972)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** ITV News; Weather. **11.25** Ejector Seat. (R) **12.25** Britain's Best Back Gardens. (R) **1.25** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **2.25** Tipping Point. (R) **3.25** Diversity Live. (R) **4.25** Regional Programme ; Weather.**4.35** ITV News; Weather. **4.55 Film:** Mamma Mia! (2008) Musical comedy, starring Meryl Streep.

7.00 Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. New series. The larger-than-life comic steps into the shoes of former hosts Leslie Crowther, Matthew Kelly and Cat Deeley to front this latest reincarnation of the show in which five members of the public are transformed into their singing heroes to perform an iconic hit to an appreciative studio audience. The winner of each round goes forward to the final, with the chance to pick up the series' coveted award.

8.05 Take Me Out. Chocolate factory worker Peter, city slicker Liam, oil rig engineer Colin and gymnast Chris vie for the attentions of 30 single women, intent on capturing their interest and securing a date – but first they must get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Host Paddy McGuinness monitors their progress and also reviews the dating action from last week's couples on the Isle of Fernandos.

9.20 Film: Skyfall. (2012) James Bond pursues a mysterious criminal mastermind who has orchestrated a terrorist attack on MI6 headquarters and exposed the identities of undercover agents around the world. The trail leads to a rogue former operative who has a personal vendetta against the intelligence organisation's leader. Action thriller, starring Daniel Craig, Javier Bardem, Judi Dench and Ralph Fiennes.

11.05 ITV News; Weather.

11.20 Film: Skyfall. (2012) Concluded.

12.20 Off Their Rockers. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.00** Cycling: Revolution Series. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The King of Queens. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Speed with Guy Martin. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Warwick and Kempton Park. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **5.30** The Simpsons. (R)

6.00 The Simpsons. In another trio of horror tales, Lisa discovers Bart's demented twin in the attic and creates an alternative world in a margarine tub – before becoming its god. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Restoration Man. George Clarke meets Russell Edwards and Nadia Smith, who are trying to build a family home out of a derelict 18th-century farmhouse in the Shropshire countryside. (R)

8.00 Tsunami: 10 Years On. Documentary studying the aftermath of the Boxing Day 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, a decade after it took place. Featuring archive footage and interviews with experts and eyewitnesses. First shown on More4.

9.00 Film: Bad Teacher. (2011) Cynical, hard-drinking teacher Elizabeth Halsey hates her job and the kids in her class, and hopes to escape her daily grind by landing a rich husband. A wealthy substitute seems like a suitable candidate, but she has a rival for his attention in a squeaky-clean colleague. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake, Jason Segel and Lucy Punch.

10.50 Sarah Millican: Chatterbox Live. Stand-up show recorded at London's Bloomsbury Theatre in 2011, in which the comedienne shares humorous insights into her life, including the perils of living alone. (R)

11.50 Film: Cocktail. (1988) An ambitious bartender with dreams of running his own establishment is torn between the waitress he loves and a wealthy older woman. Drama, starring Tom Cruise and Bryan Brown.

1.50 Queer as Pop: From the Gay Scene to the Mainstream. (R) **2.45** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Access. **10.30** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **11.25** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.20** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.20 Film:** Columbo: The Murder of a Rock Star. (1991) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Little Richard. **3.15 Film:** Columbo: Grand Deceptions. (1989) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **5.15** Deadliest Storms. (R)

6.10 Scariest Weather. The most violent and dangerous weather ever caught on camera, including tornados and dust storms in America, wildfires in Russia and the tsunami that hit Japan in March 2011. Part of Storm Night. (R)

7.00 Worst Weather Ever? Documentary examining the current spate of extreme weather, looking at the effect of the increase in the Earth's temperature and exploring what will happen if it continues to rise. Part of Storm Night. (R)

7.55 Secrets of the Egyptian Pyramids. Dallas Campbell presents a programme in which a team of investigators attempt to unlock the secrets of some of the world's greatest engineering achievements. In the first episode, scientists and historians led by Steve Burrows, the engineer responsible for the Bird's Nest Olympic stadium in Beijing, travel to Egypt to use 3D laser scanners to digitally recreate virtual replicas of four different ancient pyramids. Through these, they tell the story of how builders 5,000 years ago refined the structure by learning from their mistakes and look at why the pharaohs came to be buried in them. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the famous residents' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to their housemates' quirks and foibles while also coping with the day-to-day complications of life inside the house.

10.00 Film: Mr & Mrs Smith. (2005) Married assassins are hired to kill each other – a situation that restores some much-needed excitement to their relationship. Comedy adventure, with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **8.00** Top Gear **9.00 Film:** Avengers Assemble (2012) **11.15** Family Guy **1.30** Crims **2.00** People Just Do Nothing **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Land of the Volcano **8.00** Everyday Miracles: The Genius of Sofas, Stockings and Scanners **9.00** Spiral **10.50** Rock 'n' Roll Britannia **11.50** Totally British: 70s Rock 'n' Roll **1.55** Top of the Pops: 1980 **2.25** Lost Land of the Volcano **3.25** Sounds of the Sixties **3.55** Close

ITV2

12.05 The Cube **1.10 Film:** Richie Rich (1994) **3.05** You've Been Framed! **4.05** You've Been Framed: The Next Generation! **5.05** You've Been Framed! **5.35 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **7.20 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.20** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.05** Blue Go Mad In Ibiza **11.05 Film:** Ocean's Eleven (2001) **1.30** Mom **1.50** Fake Reaction **2.25** Life's Funniest Moments **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.30 Lewis **1.35** Inspector Morse **3.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.55** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Inspector Morse **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.55 Film: The Cimarron Kid (1952) **1.40** Kojak **4.35** Storage Wars **5.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Buenos Aires ePrix. **8.30** Storage Wars **9.00 Film:** The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) **11.20 Film:** Troy (2004) **2.25** Highway Patrol **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **4.30** Teleshopping

E4

11.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **12.30** Rude(ish) Tube **1.30** Troy **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **4.00** How I Met Your Mother **5.00** Rude(ish) Tube **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** The 100 **9.00 Film:** Beverly Hills Cop (1984) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.00** The Inbetweeners **1.00** How I Met Your Mother **2.00** The Ricky Gervais Show **3.25** Don't Trust the B**** in Apartment 23 **4.10** Charmed

Film4

11.00 Cat Ballou (1965) **1.00** Taxi (2004) **2.55** Battle of the Sexes (1959) **4.40** Clueless (1995) **6.35** Beaches (1988) **9.00** Ghost (1990) **11.30** The Bay (2012) **1.15** Scanners (1981) **3.30** Close

JIMMY SPICE'S

all you can eat world buffet

DINE FOR £1 IN JANUARY

Mobile:

Email:

BIRMINGHAM
0121 643 2111
Regency Wharf
Broad Street, B1 2DS
www.jimmyspices.co.uk

Order a buffet meal and a 2nd person can dine for ONLY £1

Printed voucher & pre-booking essential. Guest email address/contact number required at time of billing. One full adult price meal must be purchased to get the 2nd for £1. Offer excludes children. Valid lunch & dinner excluding Saturday. Not valid during Happy Hour. Can not be used in conjunction with any other offer/discount. Max 6 buffets charged at £1 per table/booking. Valid till 30th January 2015.

CHR08

CHOICE

David Jason

Still Open All Hours (BBC1, 7.30pm)
Although Arkwright may no longer be manning the unpredictable till, not much else has changed in his famous corner shop. So if some viewers are still claiming that in reality, it would have been taken over by a chain, turned into a tanning parlour or simply closed down all together, they'll be able to sympathise with the snobbish Mrs Dawlish, who this week struggles to believe that such a quaint little place still exists. Luckily, Granville thinks there may be a way to make money out of her incredulity. However, that doesn't mean he's afraid to move with the times – the shopkeeper also has ambitions to open a coffee shop, which is causing quite a stir in the neighbourhood. Meanwhile, Eric, has been landed with a new job.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. A round-up of national and international news, plus sports reports, weather forecasts and arts and entertainment features. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Flog It! (R) **2.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.35** Songs of Praise. **4.10 Film:** Shrek 2. (2004) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers. **5.30** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Celebrity Mastermind. Gemma Cairney, Anthony Ogogo, Tina Malone and Dominic Laurie answer questions on subjects including the Spice Girls, the London Underground and Barbra Streisand.

6.30 Countryfile. People and places hit by the 2014 floods in Somerset, meeting the farmer whose livelihood ended up underwater and finding out how it affected the local birdlife. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.30 Still Open All Hours. Granville's plans to open a coffee shop cause a stir in the neighbourhood, and snobbish local Mrs Dawlish pays a visit, surprised that such old-fashioned corner shops still exist. David Jason stars.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team returns to Waltham Forest Town Hall in east London, where items include an Art Deco pendant with a hint of ancient Egypt and a purse that saved a German soldier's life.

9.00 Last Tango in Halifax. Celia tries to improve her relationship with Alan and accepts Gary into her life. Despite their tense relationship, she stands by Caroline when some devastating news is received.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents action from the latest Premier League fixtures, which were Arsenal v Stoke City at the Emirates Stadium and Manchester United v Southampton at Old Trafford.

11.35 The Apprentice USA. Surviving candidates Meat Loaf, Marlee Matlin, Dionne Warwick and others are tasked to create a children's book and perform its contents to a group of youngsters.

1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

6.15 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.15** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** Food & Drink. (R) **12.20** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.50** Live Snooker: The Masters. Mark Selby v Shaun Murphy. **5.00** Ski Sunday. **5.45** Live Darts: BDO World Championships. Colin Murray presents coverage of the men's final, as the tournament concludes at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green, and the successor to Stephen Bunting is crowned. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

8.00 Kate Humble – Into the Volcano. Part two of two. Kate joins a team of geologists on another research expedition in the southern Pacific as they head to the island of Ambrym in the Vanuatu archipelago. There she undertakes an arduous journey to the volcanic cone Marum – which contains one of only five lava lakes on the planet – abseiling right to its heart to discover if another major eruption may be imminent. Along the way she discovers how the volcano has shaped the customs and traditions of the islanders and discovers what it really means to live each day on its slopes.

9.00 Racing Legends: John Surtees. High-profile car enthusiasts pay tribute to British motorsport greats and re-enact one of their most iconic races. Last in the series.

10.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Question master Stephen Fry continues the comedy quiz's exploration of subjects beginning with the letter L as he asks a range of fiendish questions on the multisized worlds of the little and the large. Joining regular panellist Alan Davies are Pointless co-host Richard Osman and stand-ups Lucy Porter and Phill Jupitus, who are all hoping they don't fall into the QI elves' traps and set off the klaxon.

10.45 Billionaire's Paradise: Inside Necker Island. Documentary going behind the scenes at Richard Branson's Necker Island, one of the world's most exclusive holiday destinations where guests can pay more than £40,000 a night. (R)

11.45 Snooker: The Masters. Stuart Bingham v Marco Fu. **12.35** Snooker Extra.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30 Film:** Columbo: Butterfly in Shades of Grey. (1993) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **12.30** Harry Hill's Stars in Their Eyes. (R) **1.30** Catchphrase. (R) **2.15** Midsomer Murders. (R) **4.15 Film:** Diamonds Are Forever. (1971) James Bond spy adventure, starring Sean Connery.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 All Star Family Misfortunes. Vernon Kay reviews clangers and bloopers from the long-running quiz show, together with some of the more silly answers proposed by its celebrity participants.

8.00 Foyle's War. The son of a high-profile Jewish businessman is attacked in the grounds of a university, leaving Foyle to consider the possibility that the attack was racially motivated. Meanwhile, in London, tensions mount as charismatic right-wing leader Guy Spencer is released from prison. But is he being set up to take the spotlight off a dangerous espionage operation involving MI6? Elsewhere, Sam becomes acutely aware of the impact of the war on Adam's constituents as she encounters a young boy suffering from whooping cough. Michael Kitchen stars in the 1940s-set crime drama, with Honeysuckle Weeks and Daniel Weyman.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 The Kyle Files. Jeremy Kyle tackles high-profile issues that affect people's lives across Britain. (R)

10.45 The Undriveables. Some of Britain's worst learner drivers are paired with leading instructors in an attempt to finally pass their test. An Essex woman tackles London's hectic roads. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures.

12.10 The Store.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30 Film:** Astro Boy. (2009) Animated sci-fi adventure, with the voice of Freddie Highmore. **3.15 Film:** The Princess Diaries. (2001) Family comedy, starring Anne Hathaway. **5.30** Channel 4 News.

6.00 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. Sara Damergi searches the Kissimmee area of Florida to find a holiday home suitable for mother-and-daughter duo Jane and Bethan Thomas, who wish to buy a place close by the sunshine state's theme parks that they adore so much. Within their £70,000 budget, the options include a two-bedroom apartment and a three-bedroom lakeside house that offers a promising rental return.

7.00 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. The property expert heads to Bath to assist Robert and Angela, who have had their home on the market for five years and Sam and Maria, who have been trying to sell for 10 months.

8.00 The Hotel. Mark makes plans to stage a Scottish-themed event so a coachload of guests will stay put at the Cavendish and not be tempted to take their money elsewhere.

9.00 Walking the Nile. Levison Wood meets members of the Mundari tribe, who have set up a cattle camp on an island in the middle of the River Nile and lead an isolated yet tranquil existence.

10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the irreverent quiz, with team captains Sean Lock and Jon Richardson joined by guests from the worlds of comedy and entertainment. (R)

11.05 Film: Machine Gun Preacher. (2011) Premiere. A former gang member seeks to protect children who have been orphaned during a civil war in east Africa. Fact-based drama, starring Gerard Butler and Michelle Monaghan.

1.30 The Last Leg. (R) **2.25 Film:** The History of Mr Polly. (1949) **4.05** Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) **5.00** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **5.05** SuperScrimpers. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.10** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Wanda and the Alien. **8.35** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.05** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.25** LazyTown. (R) **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** Access. (R) **10.30** Monkey Life. (R) **11.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.00** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.00 Film:** Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War. (2003) Comedy drama, starring Pauline Collins. **3.10 Film:** The Pursuit of Happyness. (2006) Fact-based drama, starring Will Smith. **5.30 Film:** Aladdin. (1992) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Robin Williams.

7.10 5 News Weekend.

7.15 Film: Jackie Chan's The Medallion. (2003) An evil crime lord tries to capture a boy who has supernatural powers, but a team of international police officers is on his trail. One of the cops is killed saving the child, who resurrects him using a magical medallion. The revived detective now has superhuman abilities, which he uses to protect the youngster. Comedy adventure, with Jackie Chan, Lee Evans, Julian Sands, Claire Forlani and John Rhys-Davies. Edited for violence.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the house as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances, as well as the revelations in the diary room.

10.00 Film: A Lonely Place to Die. (2011) Premiere. Five mountaineers rescue a Serbian girl held captive in the Scottish Highlands, only to be attacked by her kidnappers. Thriller, starring Melissa George and Ed Speleers.

11.55 Winter Road Rescue. Documentary following the work of snowplough drivers, RAC patrols and heavy-recovery specialists toiling to ensure the UK's roads are kept clear. (R)

12.55 SuperCasino.

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.25** The Voice UK **9.00** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **9.30** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Crims **11.15** Family Guy **12.00** Backchat with Jack Whitehall and His Dad **12.30** Russell Howard's Good News **1.00** Sweat the Small Stuff

BBC Four
7.00 Architects of the Divine: The First Gothic Age **8.00** Queen Victoria's Letters: A Monarch Unveiled **9.00** Dan Cruickshank and the Family That Built Gothic Britain **10.00** The Sky at Night: The Billion Pixel Camera **10.30** Secrets of the Universe: Great Scientists in Their Own Words **11.30** Meat Loaf: In and Out of Hell **12.30** Heavy Metal Britannia **2.00** Heavy Metal Britannia at the BBC

ITV2
11.35 Take Me Out **12.50** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.35** You've Been Framed! **2.05 Film:** Valiant (2005) **3.35 Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **5.30 Film:** King Kong (2005) **9.00 Film:** Shaun of the Dead (2004) **11.05 Film:** Not Another Teen Movie (2001) **1.05** Mom **1.30** Fake Reaction **2.10** The Hot Desk: Neon Jungle **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.40 Wycliffe **12.55** Rosemary & Thyme **1.55 Film:** The Pure Hell of St Trinian's (1960) **3.55** Inspector Morse **5.55** Lewis **8.00** The Zoo **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night's Best of the Worst **10.00** Northern Lights **11.00** Wycliffe **12.10 Film:** Interview with the Vampire (1994)

ITV4
11.00 FIA Formula E Championship **12.00** Pawn Stars **2.15** Alias Smith and Jones **3.15 Film:** Destry (1954) **5.20 Film:** Red River (1948) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Apocalypse Now (1979) **12.05** Hell on Wheels

E4
12.30 Revenge **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **5.00** The 100 **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** 10 Things I Hate About You (1999) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory **11.25** The Inbetweeners **12.30** Rude Tube **1.35** Rules of Engagement **2.30** Charmed **3.10** The Cleveland Show **3.30** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Against the Wind (1948) **1.00** Just Wright (2010) **3.05** Flash Gordon (1980) **5.20** Biggles (1986) **7.15** Fast Girls (2012) **9.00** Unknown (2011) **11.15** Wrong Turn at Tahoe (2009)

M & H FIREPLACES
RETAILER OF THE YEAR 2002-2003
Valor
RE-OPENS 3/01/15
MANY X-DISPLAY BARGINS IN STORE

Log Burners Now In Stock
OPEN 5 DAYS. CLOSED WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY
Visit our showroom at:
Forge Lane, Cradley Heath, Halesowen, B64 5AL
(Opposite Cradley Bus and Train Station)
Telephone: 01384 345400

The Midcounties Co-operative Community Fund
Are you part of a community group or organisation in need of some support?
The Midcounties Co-operative Community Fund will open for applications on 19th January 2015, with grants of up to £2,000.
Closing date is 13th February 2015
Full details and application forms are available under the Community section of our website
www.midcounties.coop
Our profits are shared with the local community – shop with us and make a difference...

You must be a member of The Midcounties Co-operative to apply

Halesowen Fireplaces
AT THE HEART OF YOUR HOME
Complete Fireplace Packages from £499
(including fire)

For a range of Gas and Electric Fires and Surrounds visit our showroom (opposite Tyre City on Long Lane)
Telephone 0121 559 9985
Unit 14, Long Lane Trading Estate, Long Lane, Halesowen B62 9LD
www.halesowenfireplaces.co.uk

Window and Door Repairs

Specialists in: Misty and broken glass units
Leaks, seals and drafts
Handles, hinges and locks - repaired or replaced • INSURANCE WORK - NO PROBLEM
Rectification of badly fitted installations
ALL WORK GUARANTEED
GUESTS
Over 25 years experience – COMPETITIVE PRICES!!!
For Free advice and quote call Mark Guest on
01384 456490 or 07976 227034

Collyer & McBride
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
We are an Independent family owned and run business who has proudly been serving families and the local community for over 100 years.
2 Hollyhedge House, Hollyhedge Road, West Bromwich, B71 3AA
(100 yards from Sandwell Hospital)
0121 588 5377
Branches at:
West Bromwich Tel. 0121 588 5377
Handsworth Tel. 0121 554 0617
Perry Barr Tel. 0121 356 4489
24 Hour Service

B&D BLINDS
Vertical, Venetian, Awnings and Roller Blinds
- 12 Month Guarantee
- All made to measure - Supply and Fit
- Washable Blinds Available
- Friendly, Personal Service
- Full Range of Colours
0121 421 1000 • 07956 416016
153 CASTLE ROAD WEST, OLDBURY B68 0EL

J. J. Digital Aerials
Installation of Digital, Freeview & Satellite
WE GUARANTEE TO BEAT ANY LIKE FOR LIKE QUOTE
AERIALS £55 - SATELLITE £65
SELF EMPLOYED EXPERT WHO YOU CAN TRUST
Friendly, reliable service
0121 5306785/ 07919 597626

wednesbury kitchens
Bathrooms & Bedrooms LTD

Friendly advise from a family run business with 35 years experience.
We offer a full range of services from free quote and design to installation central heating, building work, plastering and tiling
Call or visit today.
45 LOWER HIGH STREET, WEDNESBURY WS10 7AQ
0121 505 3334
www.kitchenbathroombedrooms.com
Opening times: Monday-Friday: 9.30am-5.00pm
Closed: Thursday & Sunday Saturday: 9.30am-2.00pm
safe

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Nora Roberts' High Noon, Channel 5, 3.15pm
When a hostage negotiator is attacked in a police station, suspicion falls on an officer whose incompetence she had exposed. However, when the campaign of intimidation continues, she discovers she is being targeted by a deranged criminal who holds her responsible for a tragedy in his past. Crime thriller, with Emilie de Ravin and Patrick Sabongui. (2009)

TUESDAY
Primeval, BBC1, 12.05am
Two American reporters and a cameraman travel to Africa in search of a near-mythical giant crocodile that has savaged hundreds to death. However, they not only have a battle surviving encounters with the man-eating predator, but also end up in the throes of a long-standing civil war involving a local warlord who does not take kindly to intruders on his territory. Thriller, starring Dominic Purcell and Orlando Jones. (2007)

Couples Retreat, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY
Keeping Up with the Steins, BBC1, 11.35pm
The Fiedler and Stein families embark on a game of one-upmanship as they try to outdo each other in their lavish preparations for their 13-year-old sons' forthcoming bar mitzvah parties. Meanwhile, one of the boys uses the occasion to plan a surprise reunion between his dad and estranged grandfather. Comedy drama, starring Daryl Sabara. (2006)

FRIDAY
Couples Retreat, ITV, 10.40pm
A couple on the brink of divorce sign up for relationship therapy on a tropical island, but find they can save money if they persuade their friends to join them. Three more couples go along for the holiday, thinking they do not need any help – but the unconventional treatment soon exposes cracks in their relationships. Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn and Jason Bateman. (2009)

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan, Channel 4, 12.30am
A Kazakhstani journalist is sent to the United States to learn about the country and its customs. However, when the inquisitive reporter stumbles across an episode of Baywatch featuring Pamela Anderson, he becomes convinced she is his future bride and embarks on a reckless mission to track her down. Spoof documentary, starring Sacha Baron Cohen. (2006)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Looking to make their dreams come true

George Clarke likes to keep himself busy – so much so that he's often juggling various TV projects as well as running his own architectural firm.

Last March, he told us he was "making series three of Amazing Spaces. I'm making series four of Amazing Spaces at the same time. I'm making series five of Restoration Man, alongside series six of Restoration Man."

Blimey!

Well, at least his fans know that if they miss one instalment, they won't have long to wait until the next.

Amazing Spaces ended its run just before Christmas, and now it's the turn of the aforementioned series five of Restoration Man to take centre stage. And, despite the nation's continuing economic issues, it seems that people are still more than willing to invest their hard-earned savings in bricks and mortar – even if sometimes there isn't much of either when they take on a building.

"I think they're amazing," says George of those who take part in the programme. "These are people who are generally jumping into the unknown, taking on grade one or grade two listed buildings, many that have been abandoned for years.

"They do use a phrase sometimes that does make me laugh but is true, and they say, 'If I wasn't so naïve, I wouldn't have taken on the project in the first place.' But the upside is that they're not paying a king's ransom for these buildings."

He has a sound piece of advice for all involved, although some don't give it much heed: "Get the professionals around you that can really help you and advise you in the areas you're lacking. As you know from watching the programmes, people do make some really major mistakes where they think they can design it themselves, but they can't and they get it wrong.

"Get a project manager involved if you've never done it before. A project manager is somebody who's seen as an investment, not a cost. They will save you money over the course of the build."

The second episode of the current run sees George travel to Great Braxted in Essex, where Jim and Bee Goody want to turn a derelict Victorian school into their dream home in the country.

Sadly, they haven't been able to sell their existing house to help them fund the project, so have taken on a bridging loan, but on the upside, George is thrilled to hear that some of the original features they initially felt would hamper their creation of the perfect abode have now become some of their favourite aspects.

"I'm passionate about architecture and all over the country there are beautiful buildings with real soul that need to be saved," explains George. "I'm not interested in creating living museums. The challenge is to give these historic buildings a modern twist and drag them into the 21st century.

"What I loved about this was that these people have such a passion for Britain's architectural history. They just wanted to save the buildings for future generations.

"I love that, I find it really quite humbling."

George Clarke (left) in The Restoration Man, Wednesday, Channel 4, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Broadchurch
ITV, 9pm
In 2013, after the first airing of multi-award-winning drama Broadchurch, viewers cancelled all Monday evening plans for the foreseeable, after David Tenant and Olivia Colman and co gave out such sterling performances, we simply couldn't think of anything else. Conversations, whether around the water cooler at work, or down the pub of a weekend, started and ended with 'who do we think really killed Danny Latimer?' It's safe to say, we were a nation addicted – to a television programme! But such is the calibre of writer Chris Chibnell's work. However, as we'd have expected, the focus of this second series has been shrouded in secrecy, and Chibnall explained: 'I knew, from the start, that there was another story to tell in the world of Broadchurch; so much so that I'd pitched it to Peter Fincham, Director of Television at ITV, in our very first meeting when he greenlit the first series of the show.' Tonight, the drama continues, as DI Alec Hardy and DS Ellie Miller continue their investigative work, the previous case never far from their minds.

TUESDAY
Suspects
Channel 5, 10pm
New series. The return of the crime drama following the work of three detectives, in which the actors devise their own dialogue based on a detailed plot description. DI Martha Bellamy welcomes back DS Jack Weston after a period of enforced leave following the paedophile investigation, warning him this is his final chance. Jack and DC Charlie Steele investigate when a popular art teacher is found with life-threatening head injuries at a sixth-form college, with suspicions falling on handyman Ben Peel and head Rory O'Hanlon.

WEDNESDAY
Angry, White and Proud
Channel 4, 10pm
There's some hard-hitting stuff in this documentary, which explores how far-right splinter groups are on the rise. It's an eye-opener for director Jamie Roberts, who in his first full-length documentary, gets to know members of the far right – those who call themselves 'patriots', but some of whom admit to being racist and hating Muslims. Jamie and his camera follow all aspects of their lives, from violent street protests and police arrests, to the ups and downs of their domestic lives. Colin is a former nightclub DJ, but these days, puts all his efforts into his group The South London Infidels, and has such strong negative views on Islam that in the past, it's cost him his job. We also meet Paul, a former key figure in the English Defence League who now heads up the South East Alliance, and a man who joined the far-right cause following the tragic death of his son.

Suspects, Tuesday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY
Cyberbully
Channel 4, 9pm
It's been claimed that 69 per cent of young people in the UK have experienced some form of cyber bullying. Some cynics, especially those who are old enough to remember a time before social media, may think that the answer is to log off the internet, but as this one-off drama shows us, it's not always that easy. Cyberbully stars Game of Thrones actress Maisie Williams as Casey Jacobs, a teenage girl who like many others her age is in constant digital communication with her friends, whether it's by text, social media or video chats. However, she's about to be faced with the darker side of effectively living her life online when she's targeted by an anonymous hacker. Her ordeal plays out in real time, and while what happens may seem extreme, it's certainly not beyond the realms of possibility or moving into Black Mirror's 'what if?' territory – worryingly, the events depicted have been inspired by real-life cases.

FRIDAY
Race to the Pole
Channel 5, 7pm
Richard Parks takes part in a gruelling, mega-distance running event called the Jungle Ultra. In intense heat over five days, he has to cover a total of 230km across the brutal and unforgiving terrain of the Peruvian Amazon, with the course taking him from the cooler cloud forest down into the Amazon basin and through the jungle itself in Manu National Park. In addition, Richard has to carry all his own provisions with him, including food and safety and camping gear.

Have You Worked In Any Noisy Environment After 1963?
If so, this may have affected your hearing and you could be entitled to **£1000's in COMPENSATION!**
It does not matter if the company you worked for no longer exists, you could still make a claim.
✔ Specialist In Industrial Deafness Claims
✔ Quick and Simple Process
✔ No Charge
✔ Maximum Compensation
Saturday 17th January 2015 FREE Industrial Hearing Test Village Hotel, Castlegate Park, Birmingham Road, Dudley, DY1 4TB
You are particularly at risk if you have worked in any of these industries:
· Steelworks · Foundry · Engineering · Chemical Plants · Sheet Metal · Copper · Production · Fabrication · Paper · Manufacturing · Mills · Heavy Plants · Factories · Power Stations · Shipyards · Construction · Railway · National Coal Board (Ncb) · Food · Rubber · Pipe Layers · Ground Works... and many other noisy jobs.
We are inviting you to attend our clinic for a **FREE INDUSTRIAL HEARING TEST** which is taking place on:
Date: Saturday 17th January 2015
Venue: Village Hotel, Castlegate Park, Birmingham Road, Dudley, DY1 4TB
Time: 9am until 4pm
To **Book** an appointment call now on:
Freephone: 0800 65 25 786
Axium Marketing Ltd, Office 420, Glenfield Business Park, Philips Road, Blackburn, BB1 5PF

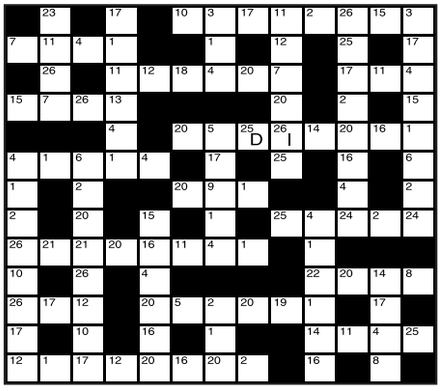
7 DAY CARVERY
£3.89 Monday-Saturday
£5.59 Sunday
Free function room available for...
Wedding Receptions, Birthday Parties, Anniversaries and Funerals
CHRISTMAS BOOKINGS NOW BEING TAKEN
ONLY A LIMITED AMOUNT OF SPACE REMAINING
THE DOVECOTE
Hill Top • West Bromwich • B70 0SD • 0121 556 0008

CP BIGWOOD
Award Winning Auctioneers
Sell your property with the Residential Auction House of the Year

Contact us for a free no obligation auction appraisal
Birmingham & The South
T: **0121 233 5046**
Black Country & The North
T: **07830 375 823**
Gold The Negotiator AWARDS 2014 Residential Auction House of the Year
Auction Estate Agency of the Year 2014 The Sunday Times
W: cpbigwood.com @CPBigwood

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



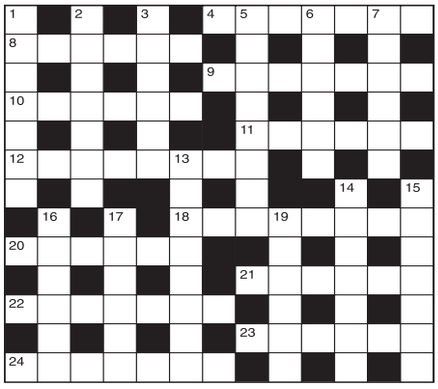
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25 D
13	26 I

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 L	2 M	3 E	4 F	5 O	6 V	7 A	8 D	9 K	10 H	11 W	12 X	13 P
14 Y	15 B	16 C	17 T	18 S	19 Z	20 J	21 Q	22 R	23 U	24 N	25 G	26 I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

4. Believes the bank balances (7)
8 & 9Ac. The nervous exuberance of beastly apparitions! (6,7)
9. See 8 Across
10. They're taken by priest and private (6)
11. Did some pillaging - dismissed (6)
12. Photograph one quick on the draw (8)
18. Try out under-ground scientific equipment (4-4)
20. Selected group of pupils upsets the master (6)
21. Has wet dressing changed (6)
22. Tunic for a knight, we hear (7)
23. Ready to put in a word for the actor (6)
24. Provide new cover as compensation (7)

Down

1. Revel and merry-go-round almost finished (7)
2. A thousand ladies upset by faulty distribution (7)
3. The children and I in the farm buildings (6)
5. It becomes involved with posers and provides smart answers (8)
6. To do a job on the board is straightfor-ward (6)
7. A torn piece of material for the lace-worker (6)
13. You'll find them also upset by cooked food (3,5)
14. Where one may declare routine practices (7)
15. Dislikes being told to go in the reserves (7)
16. Accurately use a pitch-fork! (6)
17. Sportsman who may well be foiled (6)
19. In the direction of information sign at the hospital? (6)

Quick Clues:

Across

4. Hamlet (7)
8. Cordial (6)
9. Odd (7)
10. Bad (6)
11. Wave (6)
12. Effort (8)
18. Disaster (8)
20. Diversion (6)
21. Jail (6)
22. Exhibit (7)
23. Self-possession (6)
24. Distended (7)

Down

1. Curtail (7)
2. Case of cutlery (7)
3. Road (6)
5. Inside (8)
6. Apt (6)
7. Silenced (6)
13. Grow (8)
14. Errand (7)
15. Before long (2,3,2)
16. Critique (6)
17. Force (6)
19. Sudden (6)

Sudoku

			9		8	6		
	7		1		4			
2	3				7	4	1	
	1				2			
		4		6		5		1
		2	8				3	
	9	8	7				5	3
			9		5		8	
5	6	1		3				

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	6	9	3	5	8	4	7	2
3	2	8	9	7	4	1	6	5
7	4	5	6	2	1	9	8	3
8	7	3	4	1	2	6	5	9
2	9	6	7	3	5	8	4	1
4	5	1	8	6	9	2	3	7
9	3	4	1	8	7	5	2	6
5	8	7	2	9	6	3	1	4
6	1	2	5	4	3	7	9	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Countenance; 9 Ten; 10 Automatic; 11 Aides; 13 Trestle; 14 Gas-bag; 16 Assign; 18 Tripper; 19 Scene; 20 Absorbing; 21 Fit; 22 Clandestine. Down: 2 Own; 3 Nears; 4 Estate; 5 Aimless; 6 Cut it fine; 7 Straightway; 8 Screen tests; 12 Dismissal; 15 Aspirin; 17 Praise; 19 Sight; 21 Fan. QUICK - Across: 1 Injudicious; 9 Nip; 10 Fascinate; 11 Erect; 13 Diarist; 14 Tweeds; 16 Devout; 18 Liaison; 19 Onset; 20 Tailoring; 21 Too; 22 Influential. Down: 2 Nap; 3 Unfit; 4 Inside; 5 Imitate; 6 Unanimous; 7 Infertil-ity; 8 Restitution; 12 Elevation; 15 Despoil; 17 Entire; 19 Ought; 21 Tea.

Quiz

1. Who presents TV's Question Time?
2. By what name is a kangaroo's young commonly known?
3. What is the largest city in Switzerland?
4. Who wrote the novel Cat's Cradle in 1963?
5. Which pop star married film director Guy Ritchie in 2000?
6. Which fish's young include alevins and smolts?
7. By which first name is former decathlete Francis Morgan Thompson better known?
8. Of which building does the White Tower of c.1079 form a part?
9. Whose first novel was A Parliamentary Affair?
10. Which record company was founded in Detroit by Berry Gordy Jnr?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Gerrymandering; 2 Bing Crosby; 3 India; 4 Beetle; 5 Margarine; 6 Pacific; 7 Arthur C. Clarke; 8 Nutmeg; 9 Fred Astaire; 10 Juggernaut.

Niner: WORKMATES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

925 gives a female animal,
1344 gives a male animal,
157658 gives a rodent.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Bairstow Eves

60 Birmingham Street, Oldbury B69 4DZ **0121 544 4554**

Countrywide

REDUCED BY £5,000
THE PINEWAYS, OLDBURY
● TWO BEDROOMS ● ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE ● PRIVATE GARDEN ● FITTED KITCHEN ● LOUNGE ● BATHROOM ● GAS CENTRAL HEATING ● EPC:C
£79,950

REDUCED BY £5,000
SUMMERTON ROAD, OLDBURY
● TWO BEDROOMS ● ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE ● OPEN PLAN FITTED KITCHEN ● LOUNGE/DINER ● BATHROOM ● GAS CENTRAL HEATING ● DOUBLE GLAZING ● EPC: C
£79,950

REDUCED BY £10,000
WILLOW DRIVE, TIVIDALE
● THREE BEDROOMS ● LOUNGE ● FITTED KITCHEN ● UPSTAIRS FAMILY BATHROOM ● OFF ROAD PARKING ● REAR GARDEN ● CENTRAL HEATING ● DOUBLE GLAZING ● EPC: D
£99,950

REDUCED BY £1,000
HARROLD AVENUE, ROWLEY REGIS
● THREE BEDROOMS ● LOUNGE ● FITTED KITCHEN ● OFF ROAD PARKING ● FAMILY BATHROOM ● FORE GARDEN ● REAR GARDEN ● EPC: D
£118,950

REDUCED BY £5,000
GOLDENCREST DRIVE, OLDBURY
● THREE BEDROOMS ● LOUNGE ● FITTED KITCHEN ● GUEST W.C ● OFF ROAD PARKING ● REAR GARDEN ● CENTRAL HEATING ● DOUBLE GLAZING ● EPC: C
£119,950

REDUCED BY £5,000
TOWER ROAD, TIVIDALE
● THREE BEDROOMS ● OFF ROAD PARKING ● CONSERVATORY ● FITTED KITCHEN ● LOUNGE ● FAMILY BATHROOM ● REAR GARDEN ● EPC: E
£119,950

REDUCED BY £7,000
LOVETT AVENUE, OLDBURY
● THREE BEDROOMS ● OFF ROAD PARKING ● LOUNGE ● FITTED KITCHEN ● FAMILY BATHROOM● REAR GARDEN ● GAS CENTRAL HEATING ● EPC: C
£123,000

REDUCED BY £25,000
RICHMOND HILL, OLDBURY
● THREE RECEPTION ROOMS ● EXTENDED FITTED KITCHEN/DINNER ● NO UPWARD CHAIN ● GUEST W.C ● THREE BEDROOMS ● FAMILY BATHROOM ● REAR GARDEN ● EPC: E
£199,950

FREE EPC
FREE FLOOR PLAN OR
FREE GAS CERTIFICATE*
*terms and conditions apply
ends 31st January 2015

REDUCED BY £10,000
HIGHMOOR ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS
● THREE BEDROOM ● NO CHAIN ● GARAGE ● UTILITY ROOM ● OFF ROAD PARKING ● GUEST W.C ● FITTED KITCHEN ● EPC: E
£129,950

REDUCED BY £5,000
BARNFORD CRESCENT, OLDBURY
● THREE BEDROOMS ● OFF ROAD PARKING ● TWO RECEPTION ROOMS ● FITTED KITCHEN ● FAMILY SHOWER ROOM ● FRONT DRIVEWAY ● REAR GARDEN ● EPC: C
£139,950

REDUCED BY £5,000
VICARAGE STREET
● THREE BEDROOMS ● CONSERVATORY ● GUEST W.C ● FITTED KITCHEN ● OFF ROAD PARKING ● FAMILY BATHROOM ● GARAGE ● EPC: D
£139,950

REDUCED BY £40,000
SIDAWAY CLOSE, ROWLEY REGIS
● THREE BEDROOM ● OFF ROAD PARKING ● GARAGE ● FITTED KITCHEN ● LOUNGE ● FAMILY BATHROOM ● REAR GARDEN ● EPC: E
£154,000

REDUCED BY £5,000
CASTLE ROAD WEST
● THREE BEDROOMS● OFF ROAD PARKING ● DETACHED GARAGE ● TWO RECEPTION ROOMS ● FITTED KITCHEN ● REAR GARDEN ● REAR EXTENSION ● EPC: D
£155,000

REDUCED BY £10,000
MOAT ROAD, OLDBURY
● THREE BEDROOMS ● GARAGE ● DINING ROOM ● LOUNGE ● FAMILY BATHROOM ● REAR GARDEN ● OFF ROAD PARKING ● EPC: E
£184,950

REDUCED BY £10,000
BIRCH ROAD
● TWO BEDROOMS ● DETACHED ● GARAGE ● FITTED KITCHEN ● LOUNGE ● BATHROOM ● OFF ROAD PARKING ● EPC: D
£199,950

REDUCED BY £20,000
BARTLEET ROAD, SMETHWICK
● THREE BEDROOM ● GUEST W.C ● GARAGE ● EN-SUITE ● FITTED KITCHEN ● OFF ROAD PARKING ● DINING ROOM ● EPC: D
£234,950

www.rightmove.co.uk Part of the UK,s largest Estate Agent Group

Country residence set in acres of gardens

THIS five-bedroomed detached country residence in six acres of gardens and paddocks in Patshull Road, Albrighton is for sale through Peter James Property at £1,400,000.

Built in the 1920s the property has been painstakingly restored over the last 13 years. The grounds include a kitchen garden, an orchard, extensive patio and lawn areas.

Call 01902 754777 or visit www.peterjamesproperty.com

Forthcoming Auction

Cottons
CHARTERED SURVEYORS

Tuesday 24th February 2015
to be held at The Aston Villa Football Club

Considering Selling by Auction?
Call for your FREE No Obligation Appraisal

Considering Buying at Auction?
Call for your FREE Catalogue

Auctioneers of Residential and Commercial Property, Land and Development Opportunities

Tel: 0121 247 2233 or email:auctions@cottons.co.uk
www.cottons.co.uk

Taylors

the property professionals

Halesowen 0121 550 3978 | Bearwood 0121 434 4345 | Brierley Hill 01384 265265 | Also at Stourbridge, Sedgley and Kingswinford

SMETHWICK, Hales Lane
A spacious, delightfully presented and thoughtfully improved 3 bed semi detached, conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Porch, Entrance vestibule, delightful lounge, re-fitted breakfast kitchen, attractive conservatory, rear vestibule area (with downstairs w.c off), 3 bedrooms, bathroom, off road parking and good sized rear garden. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE
Offers in the Region Of £139,950

BEARWOOD, Park Road
An attractively presented, spacious, 2 bed mid terraced property within this popular neighbourhood, convenient for local shopping facilities within Bearwood Town Centre, having gas radiator heating and briefly comprising :- Entrance vestibule, dining/sitting room, attractive lounge, inner hall, kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, spacious bathroom and pleasant rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE
Offers in the Region Of £139,950

BEARWOOD, Galton Road
Deceptively spacious 3 bed mid terraced property occupying a pleasant position within this popular neighbourhood, convenient for Bearwood Town Centre and Warley Woods, requiring modrnisation but offering potential and comprising :- Entrance hall, spacious through lounge/dining area, inner hall, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE.
Offers in the Region Of £129,950

OLDBURY, Birchfield Lane
Attractively presented, thoughtfully improved, 3 bed semi detached property conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Porch, spacious lounge, re-fitted kitchen (with integral oven/hob), rear vestibule area (having downstairs w.c off), attractive conservatory, 3 bedrooms, bathroom and pleasant rear garden. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE
Offers in the Region Of £129,950

TIVIDALE, OLDBURY, Birch Crescent
A deceptively spacious, well presented, 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated, having majority double glazing, gas radiator heating and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, spacious lounge/dining area, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, separate w.c, shared drive at the side leading to GARAGE, and pleasant rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE
Offers in the Region Of £122,500

SMETHWICK, St. Albans Road
A chance to acquire a deceptively spacious, 2 bed mid terraced property conveniently situated for local shopping facilities and amenities, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Front reception room, rear reception room, inner hall, kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, spacious bathroom, and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE
Offers in the Region Of £102,000

SMETHWICK, Queens Road
A rare opportunity to acquire an extremely spacious, delightfully presented, 5/6 bedroomed semi detached having gas radiator heating, double glazing and truly requiring an internal inspection to be fully appreciated and briefly comprises :- Entrance hall, delightful lounge, sitting/dining room, re-fitted kitchen, inner vestibule area (with downstairs w.c, off), utility, downstairs bedroom (having Bathroom en-suite), 4 first floor bedrooms, shared bathroom, study/potential bedroom 6, additional shower room, separate w.c, and pleasant, good sized rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE
New price
Offers in the Region Of £219,500

QUINTON, Highfield Lane
Extremely spacious, well presented, 3 BEDROOMED ground floor maisonette, conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, delightful lounge, conservatory, fitted breakfast kitchen (with integral oven/hob and integrated fridge/freezer), 3 GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS, bathroom, PLEASANT REAR GARDEN, off road parking and GARAGE at the front. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE
Offers in the Region Of £114,950

SMETHWICK, Milton Court, Sandon Road
A chance to acquire a deceptively spacious 2 bedroomed flat, occupying a pleasant position within this retirement complex, convenient for Bearwood Town Centre, approached via a communal entrance and comprising :- Entrance hall (with intercom receiver), spacious lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, communal garden and communal parking area. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC C. BEARWOOD OFFICE
No upward chain
Offers in the Region Of £69,950

www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

We Value Your Home

SKITTS
ESTATE AGENTS

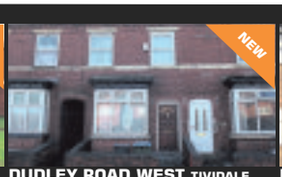
Successfully selling homes across the Midlands, Black Country and Staffordshire for over 35 years

greatbridge@skitts.net	**0121 520 2255**
dudley@skitts.net	01384 214 996
bloxwich@skitts.net	01922 478104
bilston@skitts.net	01902 353578
sedgley@skitts.net	01902 686868
wednesbury@skitts.net	0121 505 1818
wednesfield@skitts.net	01902 732324
willenhall@skitts.net	01902 631151
westbromwich@skitts.net	0121 530 4240
wolverhampton@skitts.net	01902 788188
lettings@skitts.net	0121 520 2255
surveyors@skitts.net	0121 520 2255

NEW

WARREN CLOSE TIPTON
- Well maintained ground floor apartment
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £69,950



NEW

DUDLEY ROAD WEST TIVIDALE
- Large terraced home
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Condensing central heating
- Double glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £76,000

NEW

MOSELEY STREET TIPTON
- Spacious town house
- 3 excellent bedrooms
- Through lounge/dining room
- Double glazing and central heating

OFFERS AROUND: £94,950

NEW

HUDSON ROAD TIPTON
- Enlarged mid-town house
- Three generous bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £124,950

NEW

BIRMINGHAM ROAD DUDLEY
- Traditional semi
- Ideally placed for all amenities
- Larger than average accommodation
- Three generous bedrooms

OFFERS AROUND: £124,995

NEW

POWIS AVENUE TIPTON
- Large traditional semi detached home
- Popular location close to all amenities
- Three excellent bedrooms
- Extended kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £134,950

NEW

TURTON ROAD TIPTON
- Large semi detached house
- Four good bedrooms
- Central heating and double glazing
- Downstairs bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £139,950

NEW

BEVERSTON ROAD TIPTON
- Extended semi detached
- Two reception rooms
- Three bedrooms
- Potential for ground floor bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £149,950

REDUCED

COLBOURNE ROAD TIPTON
- Mid terrace house
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room

OFFERS AROUND: £79,500

REDUCED

WELLINGTON ROAD TIPTON
- Mid terrace house
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining roomhttp://es.starpropertynet.co.uk/pnet/

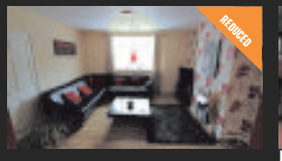
OFFERS AROUND: £79,995

REDUCED

GREENSILL AVENUE TIPTON
- Three bedroom semi detached house
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Front and rear gardens

OFFERS AROUND: £104,995

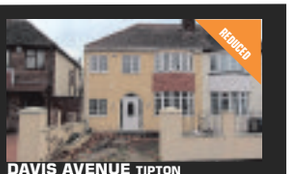
BATMANSHILL ROAD TIPTON
- Semi-detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen



REDUCED

- Dining area
- Ground floor bathroom
- Front & rear gardens
- Off road parking

OFFERS AROUND: £107,950



REDUCED

DAVIS AVENUE TIPTON
- Extended three bed semi detached house
- Through lounge and dining room
- Kitchen
- Conservatory

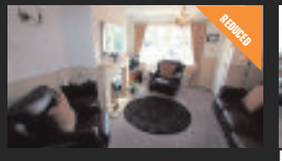
OFFERS AROUND: 135,995

REDUCED

WILLIAM BARROWS WAY TIPTON
- A four bedroom end terraced property
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Downstairs w/c

OFFERS AROUND: 149,995

MYRTLE TERRACE TIPTON
- Three bedroom modern link detached
- Lounge/dining room
- Kitchen
- Conservatory

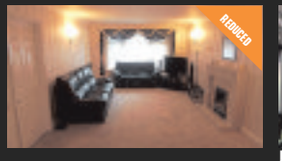


REDUCED

- Double glazing and gas fired central heating
- Garage
- Block paved driveway
- Front and rear gardens

OFFERS AROUND: £167,995

FARMER WAY TIPTON
- Detached property
- Four bedrooms
- Lounge & dining room
- Downstairs w/c



REDUCED

- Fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Garage
- Rear garden

OFFERS AROUND: £195,000

REDUCED

PEPPERBOX DRIVE TIPTON
- Modern detached
- Three bedrooms
- Family lounge
- Dining room

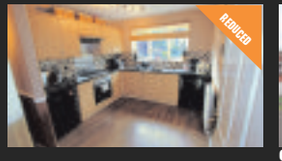
OFFERS AROUND £174,995

REDUCED

CREW DRIVE TIPTON
- Semi detached family home
- Four bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room

OFFERS AROUND: £183,995

OXFORD WAY TIPTON
- Modern detached home
- Four bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room



REDUCED

- Kitchen
- Utility room
- Second lounge/ study
- En-suite to master

OFFERS AROUND: £217,500

REDUCED

GREAT MEADOW TIPTON
- Modern four bed detached family home
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Second lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £244,950

COBURG CROFT TIPTON
- Modern mid terrace
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £99,995

BEAUMONT CLOSE TIPTON
- End terrace
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £99,995

GREENSILL AVENUE TIPTON
- Semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen

OFFERS ROUND: £107,500

CATHERTON CLOSE TIPTON
- Semi detached
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £109,995

WATTS CLOSE TIPTON
- Semi detached property
- Two bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £114,995

UPPER CHURCH LANE TIPTON
- Semi detached
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room

OFFERS AROUND: £117,000

ST VINCENTS CRESCENT TIPTON
- Semi detached property
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining room

OFFERS AROUND: £124,995

CHURCHYARD ROAD TIPTON
- Three bedroom semi detached property
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Ground floor w/c

OFFERS AROUND: £129,995

ANCHOR DRIVE TIPTON
- Mid terrace town house
- Three bedrooms
- Kitchen/diner
- Downstairs w/c

OFFERS AROUND: £137,500

GOUGH DRIVE TIPTON
- Modern end terrace
- Four bedrooms
- Study/fourth bedroom
- Kitchen diner

OFFERS AROUND: £159,995

WOOD STREET TIPTON
- Extended detached
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge dining room
- Breakfast kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: 169,995

THE LENCHES OLDBURY
- Detached home
- Four bedrooms
- Lounge & dining room
- Breakfast kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £179,995

SHEEPWASH LANE TIPTON
- New build four bedroom detached family home
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Fitted kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £199,995

PUDDLERS DRIVE TIPTON
- Modern detached
- Four bedrooms
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £227,500

connells.co.uk

Thinking of Selling?

Call today to arrange your free market appraisal

Connells

Bearwood 122 Poplar Rd Bearwood B66 4AP

The Uplands
NOW £84,500 WAS £86,950
REDUCED

A mid terraced property, ideal first time buy or investment with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, upstairs family bathroom and gardens to rear. No upward chain. EPC: D

Greenfield Road
NOW £125,000 WAS £129,950
REDUCED

A semi detached property with no upward chain. Having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens. EPC: D

City Road
NOW £218,000 WAS £225,000
REDUCED

A spacious mid-terraced property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: two reception rooms, kitchen/dining room, downstairs bathroom, five bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, separate WC and spacious gardens. EPC: F

Rawlings Road
NOW £119,950 WAS £125,000
REDUCED

A well maintained mid terraced property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms and upstairs bathroom. EPC: E

Sandon Road
NOW £78,375 WAS £82,000
REDUCED

A very well presented flat in Milton Court, located within a popular and desirable retirement complex with double-glazing where specified and comprising: hallway, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, shower room, communal grounds and resident's parking. EPC: C

Fountain Road
NOW £312,500 WAS £317,500
REDUCED

An impressive three storey Victorian semi detached property, having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, second lounge, dining area, breakfast room, kitchen, cloakroom, six bedrooms, bathroom, parking and garden. EPC: E

Galton Road
NOW £179,950 WAS £190,000
REDUCED

A well maintained mid terraced property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, upstairs family bathroom, gardens to front and rear. EPC: D

Rear of 31, Eva Road
NOW £75,000 WAS £82,000
REDUCED

A well maintained end terraced Victorian property in a convenient residential location. With gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: lounge, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms, bathroom, gardens to front and rear. EPC: E

St Marys Road
NOW £145,000 WAS £149,950
REDUCED

A larger than average mid terraced Victorian with gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance lobby, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility area, cloakroom, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens. EPC; E

Norman Road
NOW £120,000 WAS £122,500
REDUCED

A semi detached property having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance vestibule, lounge, kitchen, cloakroom, three bedrooms, upstairs family bathroom, gardens to front and rear and off-road parking. EPC: D

Linden Road
NOW £160,000 WAS £165,000
REDUCED

An impressive end terrace property occupying a corner plot, having gas central heating and double glazing where specified and comprising: entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, store room, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens and off-road parking. EPC: D

Oldbury 70/76 Birmingham Street Birmingham B69 4EB

Moat Road
NOW £249,900 WAS £255,000
REDUCED

EPC RATING F - ●●NO UPWARD CHAIN●● An extensive semi detached family home RECENTLY RENOVATED to a very high specification and is beautifully presented throughout. The property comprises of entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, extensive dining / kitchen with BREAKFAST ISLAND and integrated appliances, ground floor shower room, FIVE first floor bedrooms, family bathroom and separate shower, driveway, integral garage and well maintained rear garden. Double-glazing and central heating where specified. The property MUST BE VIEWED to appreciate the quality of accommodation on offer and size.

New Birmingham Road
Tividale £159,950
NEW

EPC RATING D - A well presented and well maintained detached bungalow consisting of spacious lounge, two DOUBLE bedrooms, kitchen/diner, off road parking and detached garage. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Tividale Street
NOW £151,952 WAS £159,950
REDUCED

EPC RATING C - A MODERN 3 BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY Comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining area, kitchen, conservatory, downstairs w.c, 3 bedrooms, master en suite, integral garage, front & rear garden with off road parking.

Dudley Road
Rowley Regis £139,850

EPC RATING C - A very IMPRESSIVE and HIGHLY MODERNISED semi detached comprising of entrance hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, high specification fitted kitchen, three first floor bedrooms, high specification bathroom suite, driveway, garage and rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Moat Road
NOW £249,900 WAS £255,000
REDUCED

EPC RATING AWAITED - A spacious three bedroom mid terraced property CLOSE TO local shops and schools, also offering good links to public transport. The property comprises of lounge, kitchen/diner, downstairs wet room, family bathroom, off road parking and has NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Warley Road
Oldbury £135,000
NEW

EPC RATING C - A very well presented DETACHED family home having a desirable cul-de-sac location and comprises of entrance hall, guest cloakroom, lounge, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, three first floor bedrooms, bathroom, front driveway, front and rear gardens. ●●NO UPWARD CHAIN●●

Goldencrest Drive
NOW £132,952 WAS £135,000
REDUCED

Law Close
NOW £132,950 WAS £139,950
REDUCED

An extended detached property in CUL-DE-SAC location with off road parking. Double glazing and central heating where specified. EPC RATING C

Bristnall Hall Lane
NOW £120,000 WAS £122,995
REDUCED

EPC RATING C - A well presented END TERRACED family home comprising of entrance hall, lounge, kitchen / dining room, three first floor bedrooms and family bathroom, rear garden with outbuilding and front driveway. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Roway Lane
NOW £109,245 WAS £114,995
REDUCED

EPC Rating E - ●NO UPWARD CHAIN● A three bedroom semi detached property CLOSE TO OLDBURY TOWN CENTRE having two reception rooms, first floor bathroom, rear garden and off road parking. Double glazing and central heating where specified.

Dudley Road East
NOW £85,452 WAS £89,950
REDUCED

EPC Rating F - A three bedroomed mid terraced property with two reception rooms, breakfast kitchen. Double glazing and central heating where specified. POTENTIAL FIRST TIME BUYER or BUY TO LET

Oldacre Road
Oldbury £72,500

EPC RATING D - CONNELLS ARE PLEASED TO INTRODUCE THIS MODERN TWO BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW having lounge, kitchen, bathroom, off road parking to front, detached garage to front and rear garden. Double glazing and central heating where specified. ● 50% SHARED OWNERSHIP ●

Wednesbury 22 Springhead Wednesbury WS10 9AD

The Green
NOW £150,000 WAS £157,995
REDUCED

VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to appreciate this modern style four bedroom detached property briefly comprising of, open plan kitchen/diner, utility room, guest cloakroom, lounge, en-suite to master bedroom, family bathroom, central heating and double glazing (as specified) enclosed rear garden. EPC Rating C.

Bloomfield Road
NOW £142,100 WAS £145,000
REDUCED

A well presented three/four bedroom town house briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified), lounge, fitted kitchen/ diner, en-suite to master bedroom, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden and allocated parking. EPC Rating B.

Gregory Close
NOW £125,000 WAS £135,000
REDUCED

A well presented two bedroom detached bungalow comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) lounge, kitchen, bathroom, enclosed rear garden and allocated parking. EPC Rating E.

Highfield Road
NOW £108,775 WAS £114,500
REDUCED

A fantastic opportunity to purchase this three bedroom semi-detached property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing and gas central heating (as specified) reception hallway, lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, driveway providing off road parking.

Princess Way
NOW £97,000 WAS £99,000
REDUCED

Benefiting from no upward chain. A modern style two bedroom end terrace property briefly comprising of, gas central heating, lounge, kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, allocated parking. EPC Rating E.

81 Rough Hay Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands WS10 8NQ
PUBLIC NOTICE

We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £74,950 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. The Energy Performance Certificate Rating is D. Connells, 22 Spring Head, Wednesbury WS10 9AD Tel 0121 556 2338.

Wedgbury Close
NOW £94,080 WAS £96,000
REDUCED

Modern style two bedroom ground floor apartment set within a popular development benefits from, open plan living comprising of, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, secure entry system, allocated parking space. No upward chain. EPC Rating C.

Cambridge Street
NOW £107,310 WAS £109,500
REDUCED

A 3 bedroom mid terrace property located close to West Bromwich Town Centre, offering 2 reception rooms, downstairs bathroom,fitted kitchen, double glazing, central heating (where specified), rear garden. EPC RATING E

West Bromwich 3 Astle Park West Bromwich B70 8NS

Bache Street
NOW £93,575 WAS £98,500
REDUCED

Connells are pleased to present this 2 bedroom corner plot semi detached property located 1 mile to Sandwell and Dudley train station, less than 1 mile to West Bromwich Bus Station and metro (Via AA Route Planner)having downstairs bathroom, lounge, conservatory, central heating and double glazing (where specified),off road parking. ●●●NO UPWARD CHAIN ●●●EPC RATING D

Bromford Lane
NOW £109,760 WAS £112,000
REDUCED

A 2 bedroom mid terrace property situated close to West Bromwich town centre, offering, double glazing, central heating (where specified), 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom, rear garden, EPC RATING E

West Bromwich
£99,900
PUBLIC NOTICE

Connells Estate Agents are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £99,950 for Church Vale Mews. Anyone wishing to place an offer on the property should contact Connells Estate Agents, 3 Astle Park, West Bromwich B70 8NS on 0121 525 1177 prior to exchange of contracts.

Gough Drive
NOW £80,702 WAS £84,950
REDUCED

A beautifully presented modern 2 bedroom ground floor apartment within close proximity to Great Bridge town centre, offering lounge, open plan to kitchen area, family bathroom, en-suite to master bedroom, double glazing, electric storage heating and allocated parking

Hollyhedge Road
NOW £260,000 WAS £274,950
REDUCED

A beautifully presented 4 bedroom detached property in a sought after location of West Bromwich, offering 2 reception rooms, conservatory, fitted kitchen, laundry room, guest WC, family bathroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified), off road parking, garage. EPC RATING E

Maud Road
NOW £130,000 WAS £134,950
REDUCED

A beautifully presented and well maintained 3 bedroom end terrace property located close to West Bromwich town centre and is situated in a Cul-de-Sac location, offering 2 reception rooms, downstairs WC, fitted kitchen, conservatory, family bathroom, garage, front and rear gardens, double glazing, central heating (where specified) EPC RATING F

Willingsworth Road
NOW £93,100 WAS £95,000
REDUCED

BENEFITING FROM NO UPWARD CHAIN and in a cul-de-sac location a three bedroom end-terrace property briefly comprising of, uPVC double glazing (as specified) entrance hall, two reception rooms, kitchen area, ground floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden and garage. EPC Rating F.

Joynson Street
NOW £88,200 WAS £90,000
REDUCED

Situated in a cul-de-sac location this traditional style two bedroom semi-detached property benefits from gas central heating and double glazing (as specified) briefly comprises of, porch entrance, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen area, ground floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden. EPC Rating E.

Meeting Street
NOW £85,500 WAS £90,000
REDUCED

A larger style, modern top floor apartment briefly comprising of uPVC double glazing and electric heating (as specified), lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, en-suite to master bedroom, fitted bathroom and allocated parking. Energy Rating D.

Wrenbury Drive
Bilston £129,950
NEW

An opportunity to purchase a modern style three bedroom two and half story semi detached property benefiting from NO UPWARD CHAIN and briefly comprising of lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, master bedroom with en-suite, garage and off road parking. EPC Rating C.

Witton Lane
NOW £114,660 WAS £117,000
REDUCED

A well presented traditional 2 bedroom semi detached property with a modern feel, located in the Hill Top area of West Bromwich, offering lounge, kitchen/ diner, conservatory, double glazing, central heating (where specified), rear garden. EPC RATING D

Pennyhill Lane
NOW £269,451 WAS £274,950
REDUCED

A modern beautifully presented and well maintained 5 bedroom mid terrace town house in one of West Bromwich's sought after locations boasting stunning views, offering en suite to 3 bedrooms, study, conservatory, garage, guest cloakroom, family bathroom, fitted kitchen/diner, double glazing, central heating. EPC RATING C

York Crescent
NOW £156,702 WAS £164,950
REDUCED

An immaculate modern 3 bedroom semi detached property located close to Blacklake metro station, offering lounge, kitchen/diner, guest cloakroom, family bathroom, en-suite to master bedroom, double glazing, central heating (where specified),off road parking, garage, rear garden. EPC C

St Christopher Close
NOW £147,250 WAS £155,000
REDUCED

A well presented 3 bedroom semi detached property situated in a Cul-de-Sac position and located close to West Bromwich Town Centre in the Sandwell Valley Area, offering 2 reception rooms, first floor bathroom, double glazing and central heating (where specified).Garage and off road parking. EPC RATING E

0121 420 3611 bearwood@connells.co.uk | 0121 552 2671 oldbury@connells.co.uk
0121 556 2338 wednesbury@connells.co.uk | 0121 525 1177 westbromwich@connells.co.uk

The Property Ombudsman

The Property Ombudsman SALES

pauldubberley
the estate agent

Residential Sales
Lettings
Property Management

Tividale Street, Tipton

- Modern Detached
- Upvc double glazing ● gas central heating
- Immaculate internal accommodation
- 3 bedrooms ● en suite shower, epc C

OFFERS AROUND: £150,000
Viewing:

Sandys Grove, Tipton

- Modern Attractive Semi Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Viewing Highly Recommended
- 2 bedrooms, epc TBA

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

New Road, Tipton

- Traditional Extended Middle Terrace
- UPVc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Extended to Rear
- 3 bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £109,950
Viewing:

Moat Road, Tipton

- Traditional Extended Semi Detached
- Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- In Need Of Repair / Attention
- 3 bedrooms, EPC TBA

OFFERS AROUND: £75,000
Viewing:

Madin Road, Tipton

- Traditional Much Improved Middle Terrace
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Internal Viewing Highly Recommended
- 3 bedrooms, EPC TBA

OFFERS AROUND: £119,950
Viewing:

Newcomen Drive, Tipton

- Modern Middle Terrace
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain
- 3 bedrooms, epc C

OFFERS AROUND: £109,950
Viewing:

Bagnall Street, Tipton

- Substantially Extended Semi Detached
- improved accommodation
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 4 bedrooms ● en suite, epc E

OFFERS AROUND: £179,950
Viewing:

Belmont Close, Tipton

- Superb Semi Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas central heating
- No upward chain
- 3 bedrooms, epc C

OFFERS AROUND: £127,500
Viewing:

Burkitt Drive, Tipton

- Modern Executive Detached Family Home
- Sought After Location
- Gas Central Heating
- 4 bedrooms ● en suite, Epc

OFFERS AROUND: £194,950
Viewing:

Carnegie Avenue, Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- Upvc double glazing
- Ideal Starter Home
- 2 bedrooms, epc E

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000
Viewing:

Cophall Street, Tipton

- Immaculate Spacious Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Viewing Highly Recommended
- 3 bedrooms, epc C

OFFERS AROUND: £117,500
Viewing:

Dudley Road, Tipton

- Modern 2.5 Storey End Town House
- Spacious Family Accommodation
- Upvc double glazing ● gas central heating
- 4 bedrooms ● 2 ensuites, epc

OFFERS AROUND: £139,995
Viewing:

Hampshire Road, West Bromwich — NEW

- Well Maintained Semi Detached
- Tremendous Potential To Extend (STP)
- Spacious Rear Garden
- Energy Rating E, Easily Converted Back To Three

OFFERS AROUND: £100,000
Viewing:

Marsh Lane, West Bromwich — NEW

- MIddle Terrace
- Upvc Double Glazing ● No Upward Chain
- In Need Of Repair / Attention
- epc, Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000
Viewing:

Mountbatten Close, West Bromwich — REDUCED

- Ground Floor Flat
- One Bedroom
- Allocated Parking Space
- , Security Intercom System

OFFERS AROUND: £60,000
Viewing:

Mason Street, West Bromwich

- Traditional Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Energy Rating D, Breakfast Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £107,950
Viewing:

Church Vale, West Bromwich

- Modern Style Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Upstairs Bathroom
- , Parking To Rear

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing:

Rayford Drive, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Upstairs Bathroom
- Energy Rating TBC, Offering Tremendous Potential

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Bird End, West Bromwich — NEW

- Delightful Detached Bungalow
- Three Double Bedrooms
- En Suite To Master Bedrooms
- Energy Rating C, Double Glazed Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £295,000
Viewing:

Hall Green Road, West Bromwich

- Extended Semi Detached Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Energy Rating D, Side Garage

OFFERS AROUND: £165,000
Viewing:

Kelverley Grove, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Cul De Sac Location
- Energy Rating TBC, Through Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £145,000
Viewing:

Hydes Road, West Bromwich

- Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Energy Rating TBC, Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £199,950
Viewing:

Hall Green Road, West Bromwich

- Extended Semi Detached Property
- Delightful Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Double Glazed Conservatory
- Energy Rating D, Two Reception Rooms

OFFERS AROUND: £195,000
Viewing:

Witton Lane, West Bromwich

- A Detached House
- Centrally heated. Double glazed.
- Intruder alarmed.
- Energy Rating E, Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Dorsett Road Terrace, Wednesbury

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedroom & Family Bathroom
- Through Lounge
- Energy Rating D, Spacious Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000
Viewing:

Kent Road, Wednesbury

- A Well Presented 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- No Upward Chain!
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as spec.)
- EPC Rating: C, Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
Viewing:

Brunswick Park Road, Wednesbury

- Traditional Terrace Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Loft Room
- EPC D, Two Reception Rooms

OFFERS AROUND: £85,000
Viewing:

Goldby Drive, Wednesbury

- Upper Floor Apartment
- Spacious Accomodation
- Two Bedrooms
- EPC Rating - C, Open Plan Lounge & Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £74,950
Viewing:

Joynson Street, Wednesbury

- Traditional Semi Detached Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EPC Rating D, Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £69,950
Viewing:

Dingley Road, Wednesbury

- Extended Semi Detached Property
- Three Double Bedrooms
- First Floor Family Bathroom
- Energy Rating E, Ground Floor Guest WC

OFFERS AROUND: £160,000
Viewing:

Handley Street, Wednesbury

- Well Presented End Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Lounge & Kitchen
- Energy Rating TBC, Further Ground Floor Bath-

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

King Street, Wednesbury

- Upper Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Modern Bathroom
- , Spacious Lounge & Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £82,500
Viewing:

Hydes Road, Wednesbury

- Individually Built Detached House
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Reception Hall
- No Upward Chain, Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing:

Vicarage Road, Wednesbury

- Deceptively Spacious 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- 3 Storey Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as specified)

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing:

Arundel Avenue, Wednesbury

- Modern Style Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Through Lounge Incorporating Dining Area
- Energy Rating D, Re-fitted Kitchen & Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £179,950
Viewing:

Dangerfield Lane, Wednesbury

- Well Presented 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing (as spec.)
- No Upward Chain!
- EPC Rating: TBC, Receptrion Hall

OFFERS AROUND: £105,000
Viewing:

Walsall
01922 460781
walsall@pauldubberley.co.uk

Tipton
0121 222 1304
tipton@pauldubberley.co.uk

Willenhall
01902 505971
willenhall@pauldubberley.co.uk

Bilston
01902 505974
bilston@pauldubberley.co.uk

Wednesbury
0121 222 1301
wednesbury@pauldubberley.co.uk

West Bromwich
0121 222 1307
westbrom@pauldubberley.co.uk

www.pauldubberley.co.uk
tv.pauldubberley.co.uk

Over 400 properties available to view online, on mobile or on tablet, most with fully voiced video walkthroughs.

Robert Oulsnam and Company
oulsnam

A reputation built on over 40 years of Quality, Trust and Expertise.

The Estate Agent with a reputation few can match...

In 2014 we sold over 1,300 residential properties through our 11 offices across your area

Instruct us to sell your home in 2015

Make the Right Choice!

Barnt Green:	0121 445 3311	Bournville:	0121 433 4500	Bromsgrove:	01527 871395	Droitwich:	01905 779229
Hagley Road:	0121 429 9986	Kings Heath:	0121 444 2177	Moseley:	0121 449 4576	Northfield:	0121 477 9977
Pershore Road:	0121 451 1331	Redditch:	01527 584499	Rubery:	0121 453 1051	Lettings:	0121 445 7410

A reputation built on 40 years of Quality, Professionalism and Expertise

Robert Oulsnam and Company

oulsnam

0121 4299986 Hagley Road Office

Monmouth Road, Bearwood

- Thoughtfully Improved Semi
- Contemporary Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Popular Location
- Stylish Bathroom
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £264,950

Pitcairn Road, Smethwick

- Traditional Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor WC
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £174,950

Forest Road, Oldbury

- Delightful Traditional Semi
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Sized Accommodation
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £189,950

Abbey Road, Bearwood

- Most Attractive Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Close To Warley Woods
- Period Features
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £154,950

Park Avenue, Smethwick

- Well Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- Ideal 1st Purchase
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £85,000

Cygnet Court, Smethwick

- Beautiful 1st Floor Apartment
- One Double Bedroom
- Residents Parking
- Open Plan Kitchen/Lounge
- Excellent Transport Links
- EP Rating B

Offers in the region of £69,950

Willow Avenue, Edgbaston

- Detached Family Home
- Occupying Generous Corner Plot
- Four Bedrooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £264,950

Thimblemill Road, Smethwick

- Stunning Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £149,950

Hill Top Road, Oldbury

- Modern Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Detached Garage
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £164,950

Gladys Road, Bearwood

- Tastefully Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Through Lounge
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £114,950

Laxey Road, Edgbaston

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Period Features
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £99,950

Cardinal Close, Edgbaston

- Attractive Ground Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Ideal Investment
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £112,000

Sandon Road, Edgbaston

- Well Presented Semi
- Seven Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Stunning Dining Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £374,950

Broadmoor Avenue, Smethwick

- Bay Fronted Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Modern Style Breakfast Kitchen
- Ideal 1st Purchase
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £109,950

Barston Road, Oldbury

- Attractive Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Style Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £144,950

Park Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented Traditional Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Modern Style Kitchen
- Period Features
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the Region of £169,950

Beakes Road, Bearwood

- Charming Traditional Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- An Extended Kitchen
- Ideal 1st Purchase
- Convenient for Amenities
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £119,950

Tedstone Road, Quinton

- Well Presented GF Apartment
- One Double Bedroom
- Modern Shower Room
- Ideal Investment
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £74,950

Regulated By RICS the mark of property professionalism worldwide

NAEA Ombudsman Services

www.oulsnam.net

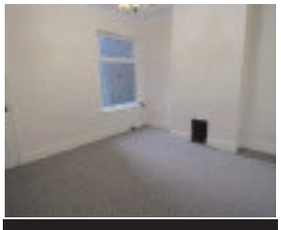
A reputation built on 40 years of Quality, Professionalism and Expertise

Robert Oulsnam and Company

oulsnam

0121 4299986 Hagley Road Office

NEW

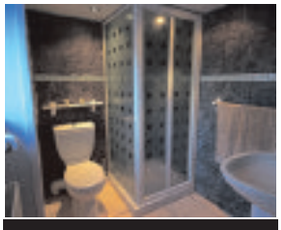


St Marys Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- GF Bath & FF Shower Rooms
- No Chain
- EP Rating F

Offers in the region of £137,950

NEW

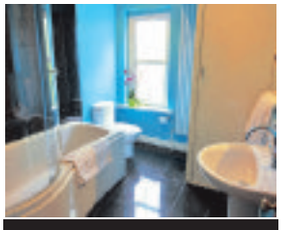


Gladys Road, Bearwood

- Attractive Traditional Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- GF Shower & FF Bathroom
- Ideal 1st Purchase
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £129,950

NOW AVAILABLE



Beakes Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Dressing Room
- Superb Bathroom
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £124,950

NEW

Vicarage Road, Smethwick

- Deceptively Spacious Terrace
- Four Bedrooms
- Modern Style Bathroom
- Breakfast Kitchen
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £124,950

NEW

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- Much Improved Detached
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Spacious Dining Kitchen
- Parking & Integral Garage
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £349,950

Bearwood

Smethwick

Bearwood

THE STATS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES!

Regulated By RICS the mark of property professionalism worldwide

NAEA Ombudsman Services

www.oulsnam.net

Property

LOOK OUT FOR THE LATEST HOMES FOR SALE AND TO LET

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Our weekly full colour supplement contains hundreds of the latest homes to buy and let across the region. Get your copy every Wednesday from your newsagent. If you are an estate agent and you want to reach our 203,000 regular readers contact one of our sales representatives.

TO ADVERTISE IN PROPERTY CALL OUR EXPERIENCED SALES TEAM ON 01902 313131 OR EMAIL PROPERTY@EXPRESSANDSTAR.CO.UK

*SOURCE: JICREG 01.04.2014

An Express & Star supplement

Express & Star

Ford transit picks up award

By David Banner

The all-new Ford Transit Courier has received the top accolade at this year's What Van? Awards by winning Van of the Year 2015.

Ford continued its winning streak with the Transit Courier also picking up Small Van of the Year, the Transit Connect topping the Light Van category and Ranger collecting Pick-up of the Year.

The Ford Fiesta Van was also highly commended in its category, and the Transit Custom likewise in the Medium Van category.

"Ford's revolution of its light commercial line-up has seen it offer the most comprehensive range of high-quality vehicles in the marketplace, in terms of visual appeal, driver appeal, innovation, technology and efficiency," said What Van? editor, Paul Barker.

"This massive investment has culminated with our Van of the Year Transit Courier offering a massive step forward in the small van segment, succeeding our only ever twice-Van of the Year winner the Transit Custom, while the excellent new Transit Connect is also a worthy winner of the Light Van category."

The awards come at the end of a two-year overhaul of the entire Ford Transit range which included the addition this year of What Van's? Van of the Year: the Transit Courier.

Dagenham-built engine achieves 76.3mpg and 97g/km CO2 emissions, and the multi-award-winning 1.0-litre EcoBoost offers 54.3mpg and 119g/km CO2 – 15 per cent better than its closest rival.

Additionally, the stylish all-new Ford Transit Courier offers 10 per cent more load volume than its direct competitors with 2.3m3 (SAE) behind the bulkhead, as well as a longer load length at floor level, and greater access width through the sliding side doors.

Sales of the Ford Transit continue to dominate, with both Transit and Transit Custom leading their segments with 26.6 per cent and 33 per cent market share YTD respectively.

The entire Ford commercial vehicle range will now be available from Ford's designated commercial dealer network, called Transit Centres, which will be rolled out across the country next year.

Terry Rayner, director, Transit Centres, Ford of Britain said: "I am delighted to receive the What Van? Van of the Year award for the Transit Courier – a Ford first in the small van segment.2015 will be the first full year that the entire four-van Transit range will be available and will coincide with the launch of Ford's specialist commercial vehicle dealerships and service centres.

"Transit Centres will be rolled out in over 100 locations across the UK, plus a further 90 service only points, cementing Ford's position as the largest commercial vehicle dealer network nationally."

Additionally, the Ford Transit was a recent winner at the 2014 ACFO Awards, the premier organisation for fleet operators, winning Large Van of the Year for the fourth consecutive year.

'Ford's revolution of its light commercial line-up has seen it offer the most comprehensive range of high-quality vehicles in the marketplace.'

Brindley Cannock
Main A5
Staffordshire
WS11 1SH

01543 406744
www.brindleyvauxhall.co.uk

Brindley Wednesbury
57 Bridge Street
West Midlands
WS10 0AH

0121 696 4754
www.brindleyvauxhall.co.uk

VAUXHALL

^Participating Retailers only. £500 Free Fuel offer not available on Corsa Excite and Limited Edition; Astra 5dr / Sports Tourer Design, Tech Line and Tech Line GT; Mokka Tech Line; Zafira (classic) models or Ampera. £500 Free Fuel will be supplied via pre-pay debit card. Purchase only, cannot be used to withdraw cash. Refer to www.vauxhall.co.uk/freefuel or contact your local Retailer for details. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1- 24 (purchase only). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on eligible new vehicle orders from 27 December 2014 to 12 January 2015.

Breakdown cover and insurance included

Motability offers you the ability to enjoy worry-free motoring

To find out how Motability can help you, talk to our specialist today.

A new car every 3 years

Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

Great Motability offers from Peugeot

***3008* CROSSOVER**
ACTIVE 1.6 HDi 115 5 door
£299 ADVANCE PAYMENT

- 17' alloy wheels
- Rear parking aid
- Automatic headlights and wipers
- Cruise control with speed limiter

PEUGEOT ***3008* CROSSOVER** ACTIVE
The versatile Peugeot 3008 Active, is now available through Motability for an Advance payment of just £299. You'll even get insurance, breakdown cover, servicing and maintenance included for 3 years. Contact us today to find out more.

Your Only Local Peugeot Motability Dealer

PEUGEOT

REGAL MOTORS
Your Main Peugeot Dealer

REGAL MOTORS (BILSTON) LTD
Oxford Street, WOLVERHAMPTON, WV14 7DG Tel: 01902 353000
www.regal-motors.co.uk

The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the 3008 range are: Urban 30.7-62.7 (9.2-4.5), Extra Urban 53.92-70.6 (5.3-4.0), Combined 42.1-67.3 (6.7-4.2) and CO_2 155-110. MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. On the Road prices quoted include delivery to dealership, number plates, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty and £55 Government First Registration Fee. Model shown 2008 Feline 1.6 VTi £17,650.

*£299 advance payment subject to availability and on selected 3008 models only. Information and offers correct at time of going to press, however Peugeot Motor Company PLC reserve the right to change these at any time and without notice. Models shown are for illustrative purposes only. For full terms and conditions, please contact the Peugeot Motability line on 0845 945 5466. Calls may be recorded for training purposes.

Kia Sportage wows the judges

The Kia Sportage has been awarded with the Used Car of the Year Award at the coveted Car Dealer Magazine Used Car Awards.

Impressing the judges with its sales performance in showrooms, strong residual values and positive press reviews, the Sportage came top ahead of very worthy competitors such as the Citroen DS3 and Volkswagen Golf.

For this award Car Dealer Magazine looked firstly into the huge amount of nominations that they had from Car Dealer Magazine readers. The judges then looked at the popularity with trade, residual values from experts, searches on classified websites as well as press reviews, from the UK media.

For the Sportage to make the shortlist it first had to gain the most number of votes before being handed over to the judges, this emphasis on the nominations made it more the dealers' used car of the year rather than being based just on the numbers.

Wheeler Dealers presenter and awards host, Mike Brewer said: "The Sportage has impressed ever since the fresh design arrived on the scene. Three years on it is still performing incredibly well in showrooms and this has meant used performances have been equally impressive. Couple in strong residual values and excellent press reviews, our judges really could make no other choice."

The Sportage is Kia's best-selling model in the UK, claiming around a quarter of the brand's total sales. With desirable levels of equipment, stunning appearance and impressive performance figures, teamed with a recent facelift for 2014, the Sportage is an attractive option for many, new or used.

DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR
VIP 'WEEKEND OF GIVING'
THIS COMING WEEKEND 9th-11th JANUARY
£500 WORTH OF FREE FUEL ON SELECTED NEW CARS THIS WEEKEND
MINIMUM £500.00 P/X ALLOWANCES PLUS LOW RATE APR FINANCE ON ALL OUR USED VEHICLES WITH NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED
(SUBJECT TO STATUS, TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY)

13/62	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTi 16v SRi (165)** Start Stop, Diesel, Estate, Sat nav, Grey, 15,000 miles	£12,995
14/14	**VAUXHALL VIVARO 2.0 CDTI (115PS)** Sportive Van 2.9t Euro 5 LWB Diesel, White, Delivery miles	£13,995+VAT
13/13	**VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.7 CDTi 16V 130** Sport Diesel Red, 13,000 miles	£13,650
14/63	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi 16V ecoFLEX SRi (130)** Start Stop Diesel White, Estate, 12,000 miles	£12,995
14/14	**VAUXHALL VIVARO 1.6 SWB** Diesel, New Shape/New Model, Silver, delivery miles	£14,995+VAT
13/13	**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi (160) SRi** Grey, 22,000 miles, Tourer	£14,250
12/61	**PEUGEOT 207** Convertible Sport, Black, 16,000 miles	£8495
10/10	**ZAFIRA 1.9 ENERGY GDTi Auto,** Blue, 27,000 miles	£7995
13/63	**CORSA 1.2 Limited Edition** White, 3-door, 7,500 miles	£9995
12/61	**ASTRA 1.6 Exclusiv** Red, 5-door, 13,000 miles	£8995
09/59	**AGILA DESIGN 1.2** Blue, 32,000 miles	£5995
11/11	**ASTRA SRi 1.6** Auto, Silver, 42,000 miles	£7495
08/08	**VAUXHALL ASTRA BREEZE** Black, 8,000 miles	£5495
10/10	**PEUGEOT 308 AUTO** 1.6 Black, 35,000 miles	£6495
12/62	**CORSA 1.2 SE** Pepperdust, 5-door, 25,000 miles	£7750
11/61	**CORSA 1.4 SE** Black, 5-door, 14,000 miles	£7250
13/63	**ASTRA 1.4 Exclusiv** Asteroid Grey, 5-door, 16,000 miles	£8995
10/60	**VAUXHALL MERIVA SE** 1.4 Silver, 25,000 miles	£7490
07/07	**KIA SORENTO CRDi XT 4x4 AUTO** Silver, 55,000 miles	£9995
09/58	**INSIGNIA S 2.0 CDTi** Black, 71,000 miles	£6250
11/61	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LTD EDITION** Yellow, 12,500 miles	£8750
13/13	**INSIGNIA 1.8 Exclusiv** Blue, 5-door, 33,000 miles	£8995
13/63	**VAUXHALL ASTRA SPORTS TOURER TECHLINE** Sat Nav, 10,000 miles, Blue, Ex Demo	£15,995
13/13	**INSIGNIA 1.8 Exclusiv** Black, 5-door, 33,000 miles	£8995
08/58	**VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE Auto** 1.8 Grey, Leather Trim, 46,000 miles	£4995
11/11	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE** 5-dr, Silver, 35,000 miles	£6995
13/63	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.6 VXR** Black, 3-door, 7,000 miles	£14,995
06/06	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXi** Silver, 3-door, 54,156 miles	£3995
05/55	**PEUGEOT 107 1.0 Urban** Black, 3-door, 48,721 miles	£3495
09/59	**RENAULT CLIO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE** Red, 39,000 miles	£5495
08/08	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 Design** Blue, 3-door, 61,552 miles	£4795
09/59	**SMART 1.0** Fourtwo Passion Silver, 3-door, 25,600 miles	£4495
10/60	**FORD KA 1.2 STUDIO** Black, 21,000 miles	£5995
06/06	**FORD FOCUS C-MAX** Black, 43,000 miles	£3995
09/09	**KIA RIO 1.5 CRD CHILL DIESEL** Blue, 56,000 miles	£4495
03/03	**RENAULT CLIO 1.2** Authentique Black, 3-door, 25,927 miles	£2650
05/05	**VAUXHALL ASTRA CONVERTIBLE 1.8** Blue, 40,000 miles	£2995
06.56	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 SE** Black, 3-door, 52,695 miles	£2995
11/61	**FORD KA 1.2 Edge** Silver, 3-door, 17,527 miles	£6395
12/12	**ASTRA 1.4 SRI** Red, 33k miles	£7995
12/12	**ASTRA 1.4 SRI** Black, 23k miles	£7995
13/13	**ANTARA** Diamond White, 25k miles	£15495
13/13	**VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 CDTi Exclusiv** 5 door, Black, 11k miles	£13995
11/61	**VAUXHALL ASTRAVAN SPORTIVE SE 1.9 CDTi** Van 61k miles	£8495 PLUS VAT
13/13	**VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2i JAM** , Red, 3 door 4k miles	£8995
13/13	**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi SE (160)** Silver, 5 door, 25k miles	£12495
13/13	**VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi SRi Nav (160)** 5 door, Silver, 23k miles	£12495
05/54	**TOYOTA AVENSIS VERSO 2.0 VVTi T Spirit** 5 door,71k miles, Silver	£4250
07/07	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.6T 16v VXR** Arden Blue, 3 door, 49k miles	£6995
12/62	**VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.7 CDTi 16V (130) SE** 5 door Grey, 13k miles, 17"Alloys	£9495
11/61	**VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4i 16V Excite** Black, 5 door, 12k miles	£7495
04/54	**MINI CONVERTIBLE 1.6 One** Met Blue 2 door, 68k miles	£4995
04/04	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4I 16V** Blue, 5 door, 59k miles	£1995
03/03	**SKODA FABIA 1.4 CLASSIC** Red, 48k miles	£1995
03/53	**CITROEN C3 1.4 HDI DESIRE** Silver, 5 door, 49k miles	£2650
08/08	**FORD FUSION 1.4TDCI ZETEC** Silver, 5 door, 36k miles	£5250
07/57	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2I 16V DESIGN** Blue, 3 door, 37k miles	£5295
09/09	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4I 16V DESIGN** Silver, 5door, 45k miles	£5295
07/07	**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTI DESIGN** Silver, 45k miles	£5695
08/08	**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTI 16V DIESEL** Black, 5door, 28k miles	£5750

DUDLEY MOTOR COMPANY 01384 454100
TRINDLE ROAD, DUDLEY, DY2 7AY (Between Cousins and Dudley Zoo) www.dudleymotorco.co.uk

All-new i40 for Europe revealed by Hyundai

By Matt Joy

Hyundai Motor has introduced its new i40 Tourer and Saloon, enhancing the brand's product line-up in Europe's competitive D-segment.

A flagship car for Hyundai Motor in Europe at its launch, the original i40 has achieved sales of 100,000 units and played an important role in changing customers' perceptions of the Hyundai brand.

Thenew i40 now features refined exterior styling, an upgraded range of responsive, efficient diesel engines, the addition of a new seven-speed dual-clutch transmission, improvements in ride and handling and several 'first-for-Hyundai' active safety and convenience features. Many of the new technologies were first seen on the new Hyundai Genesis.

Designed and engineered at the company's European R&D headquarters in Rüsselsheim, Germany, the refreshed design for New i40 retains the distinctive visual appeal and practicality of the original model, combining practicality with engaging design.

Exterior enhancements include an updated design for front and rear lamps, a more sophisticated hexagonal grille, a new front bumper, and new integrated LED fog lamps as introduced in Genesis. The profile is refreshed by newly-designed 16- and 18-inch alloy wheels.

New i40 is available with an enhanced engine line-up of two Euro6-compliant diesel power units from 115 PS up to 141 PS. These have been re-engineered to deliver increased responsiveness and efficiency.

Upgraded

A new seven-speed dual-clutch transmission is available for the upgraded 1.7-litre diesel engine with 141 PS. It provides improved fuel efficiency, and offers drivers fully automatic operation or manual gear changes through paddles on the steering wheel for greater driver involvement.

Technologies included: Integrated Stop & Go (ISG), alternator management system, and active front flaps help to further reduce emissions and fuel consumption.

For better cornering and to improve the overall agility, the New i40 now offers Advanced Traction Cornering Control (ATCC) (subject to market specification). The system uses electronic sensors to emulate the behaviour of a limited-slip differential during cornering, providing additional traction, better grip and improved handling.

New i40's Drive Mode settings are enhanced by the new Rear Electronic Damping Control System (ECS) (subject to market specification), which will be equipped on the rear axle of the most popular New i40 body type – the Tourer. The driver will also be able to adapt the suspension settings through the drive modes to suit his driving style. In addition to the rear suspension, the steering, the transmission logic* and throttle response* are all influenced by the selection. This technology follows the electronic damping control introduced on the Genesis.

Hyundai has expanded the comprehensive list of available active and passive safety technologies for the New i40 even further.

As well as the existing Lane Keep Assist System, additional functions include the new Smart High Beam (SHB) system (available subject to market specification), which monitors approaching traffic and automatically turns off the high beam to avoid dazzling other drivers. This system was first seen on the premium Genesis model.

The new Speed Limit Identification Function system checks roadside signs and displays a current speed limit alert to the driver via the new TFT display on the instrument panel. It is the first time Hyundai is bringing this technology to its line-up. (available subject to market specification)

Also introduced in the New i40 is the company's latest navigation technology with enhanced touchscreen functionality and new visualisation for better usability. The two new audio systems are available with several new features including DAB technology for the top version.

Like all new Hyundai models, the new i40 is backed up by Hyundai's unique, Europe-only, Five Year Unlimited Mileage Warranty package.

BRINDLEY
SALE
on all new and used cars
FINAL WEEK OF SALE
don't miss out
Visit brindley.co.uk/sale
for your nearest dealership and
to search our online offers
HONDA
HYUNDAI
KIA MOTORS
mazda
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
NISSAN
VOLVO
VAUXHALL
Brindley Garages – keeping the West Midlands motoring since 1931.

Berahino fined over being late for games

Football

ALBION striker Saido Berahino has requested extra training after being fined by the Hawthorns club for arriving late for games.

The Baggies have hit the 21-year-old in the pocket after he arrived late several times on match days, culminating with the Boxing Day defeat to Manchester City.

But academy manager Mark Harrison, who remains a close confidant of the forward, has revealed the striker asked for an extra session this week with under-21s coach and fans' favourite Darren Moore.

"What people don't report is the fact that, on Monday afternoon, he asked Darren Moore 'can you stay out and do extra training with me?'" said Harrison, speaking at this week's open night to showcase the new facilities at the academy's Halfords Lane base.

"People don't always hear about that, and his goalscoring is a result of it. When he came here as an 11-year-old he wasn't a bad finisher but he hasn't half worked at it.

"So when he bent those goals in against Gateshead on Saturday, I could find DVDs from the last 10 years that show him practising that."

"I defend him. I'm bound to. But I see how hard he works."

The England Under-21 forward, who was nurtured in the club's academy, is believed to have arrived late for games on several occasions and was fined after the latest incident at Christmas.

It is the latest in a series of off-field indiscretions for Berahino, who was involved in a row with team-mate James Morrison in the dressing room after last season's draw with Cardiff and provoked the interest of a national newspaper after being caught inhaling 'legal high' nitrous oxide also known as laughing gas.

Berahino was in talks with Albion over an extension to his contract, which is due to expire in 2017.

But the club put negotiations on hold over concerns about the player's attitude.

The striker is also due to appear in court on a drink driving charge. He is due to face magistrates in Runcorn on January 19after being stopped on the M6 in Cheshire in October.

Defender Yuto on Baggies radar

NEW Albion boss Tony Pulis will narrow down his transfer hit-list this week with Japan defender Yuto Nagatomo on the Baggies' radar.

Pulis has made player recruitment his No.1 priority since replacing Alan Irvine and Inter Milan full-back Nagatomo is expected to be among the players put to the new head coach by the Hawthorns recruitment staff.

The 28-year-old, who is out of favour at the San Siro Stadium, is available in the January transfer window and the Baggies have already made contact with Inter officials.

But now they must convince Pulis, who is set to take a more hands-on role in signing players than predecessor Alan Irvine. The diminutive Nagatomo moved to Italy in 2010 to join Cesena on loan from FC Tokyo before making a permanent switch to Inter in 2011.

He has played more than 70 times for his country and figured in the 2010 and 2014 World Cups.

Tottenham winger Aaron Lennon, who has been linked with the Baggies in previous transfers windows, remains a possible target after falling down the pecking order at White Hart Lane.

Baggies is my biggest challenge, says Pulis

THE new boss of Albion Tony Pulis believes he has taken on the biggest challenge of his career.

But despite five enjoyable months spent playing with his grandchildren and broadening his horizons, he insists he couldn't turn it down.

Since leaving Crystal Palace in dramatic fashion on the eve of the new season, Pulis has thrown himself into family life as well as travelling the world and visiting the battlefields of the First World War.

Yet when Baggies chairman Jeremy Peace came calling, Pulis couldn't help but give up his life of education and relaxation in search of his latest football fix.

However, the man who kept Palace up last season despite taking on a team bottom of the table with just four points from 11 games reckons his latest mission is even tougher.

"Everybody had written Palace off so it was backs against the wall and everybody against us so we had that motivation," he said.

"Here we will have to find a different angle, without a doubt, to get the players motivated. I will do my best and work as hard as it takes and I just hope my best...is good enough."

"Is it my biggest challenge? Oh yes, because it's such a short period and this has been going on at West Brom for a while now.

"This hasn't just happened, it hasn't just fallen off, this has been going on for a while – since Roy Hodgson left it's dropped off a bit.

"So there's a lot of work to be done and you have to give the chairman a lot of credit because he understands now that that is the situation."

Football

Pulis admits his sleep patterns, which had been regular and comfortable, have already begun to change since he agreed to take charge at The Hawthorns.

And he says he enjoyed his time away from the game, which began when he walked out of Selhurst Park having fallen out with co-chairman Steve Parrish on the back of the rescue act that earned him the title of Premier League manager of the year.

"It has been lovely spending time with my two grandchildren, Grace and Luca – a wonderful experience," said the 56-year-old.

"But my wife's delighted I will now be out of the house! And I can't say I haven't missed it. I think you do miss it, but I've enjoyed my grandchildren."

In a decade at Stoke over two spells, Pulis moulded the club into an established Premier League force and led them to an FA Cup final before leaving for a second time in 2013.

Tony Pulis is unveiled as Albion's new head coach at The Hawthorns. He describes the Baggies job as his biggest challenge

Blues in FA Cup battle to save face

Blyth Spartans 2 Blues 3

BOSS Gary Rowett paid tribute to Blyth Spartans after Blues narrowly avoided FA Cup humiliation.

Lee Novak sparked Birmingham's revival after they trailed 2-0 to the Evo-Stik Premier side at half-time.

Two goals in as many minutes by Wesley Thomas then turned the game on its head.

Spartans captain Robbie Dale scored twice in the first half to give his side a dream advantage before Blues' class told. After surviving two early chances for Blues striker Nikola Zigic, the hosts seized control of the game.

Dale swept home a 35th-minute opener after a cross by second-round hero Jarrett Rivers and then belted the second from the edge of the box to send the majority in the 4,400-capacity crowd wild with delight.

Spartans boss Tom Wade said: "It was a proud day for Blyth as a club and a town and days like that just underline to me how much of a pleasure it is being manager of such a great club.

"I thought we deserved to win it but they had 12 minutes of total dominance and that made the difference in the end."

Chance to train as a referee

A STAFFORDSHIRE college will host a course this month for budding football referees.

The Staffordshire FA will run the course, which starts on January 12 at Erasmus Darwin College in Chasetown.

The course, which costs £110 per person, will feature at least 21 learning hours and will consist of five modules covering the 17 laws of the game, the art of positioning and movement, management strategies and ideas on decision-making and effective reporting of misconduct.

The course is open to people aged 16 and above and more information is available from Gemma Turner on 01785 279828.

Villa in hunt to sign up Sinclair

VILLA are leading the chase for Manchester City winger Scott Sinclair.

Boss Paul Lambert has targeted Sinclair, aged 25, – who is surplus to requirements at the Etihad Stadium – after seeing his goal-shy side net just 11 goals in 20 Premier League appearances.

Sinclair has a year-and-a-half remaining on his current contract but could leave for less than £3m as City are keen to offload him.

A loan move may still be an option but both clubs are thought to favour a permanent switch. The wide man's promising career was stunted by a big move to the Etihad three years ago and was not helped by an unsuccessful loan spell at Albion.

SPORT

Berahino fined
Player slapped over being late for games
Page 43

Big challenge
New man takes over at The Hawthorns
Page 43

Sports Desk 01902 319531 email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Two for Tivs take down the Scholars

Tividale 2 Chasetown 0

TIVIDALE took the lead after 16 minutes. Former Scholar Leigh Downing seemed to take a tumble under a challenge from Jermaine Johnson and another former scholar Danny Ashton reacted quickest to prod home.

Danny Griffiths, for the Scholars, tested home keeper Charlie Price and before the half was out a wicked in-swinging free kick from Richard Davies just needed a touch but somehow the ball stayed out to frustrate the visiting team.

Tivs ended the half with a chance for David Bellis whose effort zipped past the post leaving their opponents only one goal down and still with a chance of getting back into the game in the second half.

Former Tividale striker Nathan Waite stung the gloves of Price at the start of the half but the home side dealt Craig Harris' men a blow just after the hour when they broke quickly after a Chasetown free kick failed to reach the intended target.

Downing, Deqwon Ebanks and Nigel Penney were all involved and full back Chris Field popped up to fire beyond the Scholars number one.

It was a match that saw a lot of niggles.

Game raised through Roofe

KEMAR ROOFE'S 18-minute hat-trick put Albion's youngsters on course for victory as two summer signings were given match action against Reading.

The Baggies began the New Year with a comfortable 5-0 win in the Under-21 Premier League with brothers Samir and Adil Nabi also on the scoresheet.

Costa Rica international full-back Cristian Gamboa played for 62 minutes while midfielder Sebastian Blanco completed the game.

Samir Nabi opened the scoring in the 10th minute after Alex Jones's shot was parried by Royals keeper Daniel Lincoln.

Nine minutes later Roofe unleashed a powerful strike into the bottom corner.

He then volleyed home Gamboa's cross at the far post after 25 minutes.

Roofe completed his hat-trick before the break.

Benteke's late winner calms Villa nerves

Villa 1 Blackpool 0

Football

CHRISTIAN Benteke eased Aston Villa's shredding nerves as his late winner saw them creep past Blackpool.

The striker volleyed in with just two minutes of the game left to end Villa's barren Christmas and score only their second goal in six games.

But poor Villa made hard work of Blackpool, bottom of the Championship, and were jeered by their own fans for the third straight home game.

Benteke hit the post but at the other end Shay Given saved from Andrea Orlandi and Ishmael Miller in a match of few chances as the Tangerines held their own until the death.

Still, Villa avoided an FA Cup shock having lost to Millwall, Bradford, Sheffield United and Leyton Orient in knockout competitions under Paul Lambert.

Benteke, Alan Hutton and Tom Cleverley all started in a strong home line-up.

The Tangerines replaced Jacob Murphy, Chris Eagles and Jacob Mellis with Orlandi, Steve Davies and Mark Waddington. Murphy had been sent back to Norwich after the loanee mocked the club on social media last week.

A muted Villa Park crowd had little to shout about during a forgettable first half, with the hosts desperate and Blackpool comfortable.

Orlandi drilled a volley wide from former Wolves midfielder Jamie O'Hara's corner after 27 minutes while Villa failed to muster a shot on target.

Given turned Orlandi's deflected effort wide 10 minutes before the break as the visitors grew in confidence. Villa's final ball was woeful and the visitors' defence managed to squeeze the life out of the hosts' pedestrian attacks.

Cleverley fired well over before the break and Benteke hit the side netting but it was a dire first-half display from Villa.

Blackpool would have been very happy with the way the pattern of the game emerged and over an hour had been played before Villa had their first shot on target, a Carlos Sanchez effort .

But brave Blackpool's resistance was ended on 88 minutes by Benteke.

SEVEN UP FOR NEW BOSS PULIS

Albion 7 Gateshead 0

THERE was much to report from Tony Pulis' first official day in charge of his new club.

From the rousing reception the boss was afforded to his 15th-minute appearance on the touchline and to the dramatic change in fortunes for his side to their dominant second-half display.

But as so often since he burst onto the first-team scene 18 months ago, it was Saido Berahino who took the bulk of the attention thanks to his uncanny eye for goal and his annoying habit of making his achievements all about him.

Pulis' footballing mantra is all about the team, so Berahino's stony-faced, 'look at me' refusal to celebrate any of his four excellent goals against the Conference minnows is unlikely to have gone down well with his new gaffer. Pulis's history suggests, however, that he is nothing if not pragmatic.

Talent

Once again on Saturday it was Berahino's undoubted talent, allied to Pulis' animated first appearance on the touchline in Albion colours, that made a major difference for the Baggies.

By the time the final whistle triggered warm celebrations and a morale-boosting show of unity between team and supporters, Albion had recorded a rout against a side four divisions below them.

But for the best part of 45 minutes, it was the sorry sight of 'old Albion' – one-paced, lacking in width and

Football

short on drive – that frustrated the life out of home supporters and forced Pulis's patience to snap just a few minutes into what was supposed to be a watching brief.

After surviving several early scares at the hands of Gary Mills' admirable and classy Conference outfit, Albion avoided a seemingly certain half-time Pulis tongue-lashing with two goals against the run of play just before the interval.

The first came when Berahino finished emphatically from 15 yards.

And the next arrived when Berahino turned provider for Victor Anichebe.

The rest of the game was a formality but Pulis will have approved of his side's refusal to ease off in their pursuit of more goals.

Berahino claimed his hat-trick on 53 minutes and, when Chris Brunt had hit home Albion had scored five times in 13 minutes.

James Morrison made it 6-0 and in stoppage-time Berahino produced another wonderful, bending shot to beat Bartlett and complete the scoring.

Victor Anichebe bags Albion's second goal during a match where they put away seven against Gateshead

Jewell to join the Baggies

FORMER Wigan and Derby boss Paul Jewell is poised to join Albion's backroom staff this week after Tony Pulis staged a clearout behind the scenes.

Jewell is set to join Dave Kemp and Gerry Francis in a new-look coaching teamafter Keith Downing, Dean Kiely and Rob Kelly were axed two games into Pulis's reign.

Kemp, who served as Pulis's No.2 at Stoke and Crystal Palace, is effectively already in place with the Baggies finalising his title and contract package and Francis is expected to be used on a part-time basis at the Hawthorns.

And Jewell, who has been out of football since leaving his role as Ipswich manager in 2012, will join as a first-team coach, leaving Pulis needing just a goalkeeping coach to finalise his off-field line-up, although former Stoke keeper Carlo Nash has been linked with the role.

Jewell, aged 50, came close to joining Pulis at Stoke and the pair are set to link up in time for Saturday's home game when the Baggies face Premiership rivals Hull.

Derby day for FA Cup draw

ALBION will travel to Blues for a Midlands derby in the FA Cup fourth round.

The Baggies will visit St Andrew's for the first time since March 2011, when they won 3-1 when both were Premier League sides.

Wolves will go to Premier League Sunderland if they beat Fulham in the replay. Villa face Bournemouth.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, January 8

When You Need Extra Support and Care at Home...

Tipton HOME CARE LTD
www.tiptonhomecare.co.uk
Tipton Home Care provides personal care and support to the people of Tipton and the surrounding areas. Tipton Home Care are always interested in talking to anyone who would like to join our company as care workers to meet our ever increasing client list.

PERSONAL CARE IN YOUR OWN HOME
From 7am - 10.00pm
• Breakfast > Lunch > Dinner
• Wash and Dress
• Evening Time > Bedtime Visit

Areas covered:
Tipton, Wednesbury, West Bromwich, North Dudley, Yew Tree Walsall, Tividale & Great Barr

Tipton HOME CARE LTD
Telephone: 0121 557 3649 (9am-5pm)
Mobile: 07889 018517
Fax: 0121 557 6080